



Greek life sees mixed results after rush period

By DOYEUN KIM
For *The News-Letter*

While Hopkins sororities saw a significant increase in pledges, fraternity results were mixed.

Statistics for the National Panhellenic Conference (NPC) sororities showed a total of 157 women joining sororities at Hopkins, up 34 percent from last year's 117.

This increase created a hectic and packed recruitment environment for many of the women who rushed.

"During recruitment the number of girls was overwhelming because I would wonder how I compared to the other 200 and some girls also rushing, but... I would say the large number of rushees was a positive," freshman Ana Valle said.

Of the 157 new members this spring, 53 pledged Alpha Phi, up 13 from last year, and 51 pledged Kappa Kappa Gamma, which was also 13 more than last year.

Phi Mu saw 53 pledges, an increase of 14 from last year's 39.

Greek Life Coordinator Rob Turning said that the absence of Kappa Alpha Theta, closed last spring by its national headquarters, has not affected the number of women joining sororities this year.

However, the quota for each sorority was raised to 53 new members to accommodate not only to the increased number of participants but also to adjust for the absence of Theta.

Turning said that the Theta headquarters would not entertain a return until all former members graduate from Hopkins, as their charter had been removed for disciplinary reasons.

However, the introduction of a new sorority may be a possibility.

"The Panhellenic Council will begin discussions about opening up for the extension of a new group, probably, at their next meeting," he said.

"They will introduce membership statistics and get feedback from their international headquarters, then propose a formal vote."

Another development this year was that sorority rush week was cut one day short, despite the number of participants. According to Turning, it

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Yoo defends interrogation tactics at FAS

By ERICH REIMER
Staff Writer

As the author of the controversial 9/11 legal memos, John Yoo has been the subject of controversy everywhere he goes — and his appearance at Hopkins was no exception.

On Wednesday, the Foreign Affairs Symposium hosted Yoo, where he spoke to a full audience, clarifying his views on the role and limits of the Presidency.

Yoo's speech was also met with disturbance from several protestors.

"There were a few roadblocks in terms of the protests but it was handled well and with grace," freshman Ethan Doyle said.

"Personally I don't agree with Professor Yoo's views or politics, but I wanted to see what he had to say and I'm glad I came."

A professor of Law at Berkeley, Yoo was also in the Office of the Legal Counsel of the Department of Justice in the Bush Administration, where he wrote several infamous memos regarding the right of the administration to torture prisoners.

During the course of his speech he covered his views on what made Presidents good and bad, and the things we have to keep in mind when evaluating them. Referring to a 2005/2006

SEE YOO, PAGE A7



DANIEL LITWIN/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Students stood in protest against John Yoo during his speech at FAS on Wednesday.

University extends semester by a week

By PETER SICHER
News & Features Editor

Hopkins administrators have decided to make up the week of school lost due to snow after being contacted by concerned professors, parents and students.

On Feb. 11, the University e-mailed students announcing the decision to extend classes by one week due to the two "Blizzards of 2010."

The original academic calendar called for classes to end on April 30, reading period to last from May 3 to May 5 and exams to extend from May 6 to May 13.

Now, classes will end on May 7, reading period will be on May 8 and May 9 and exams will occur between May 10 and May 16. The date of commencement, May 27, will not be changed.

"The academic integrity of the semester was at stake, particularly in the structured courses that serve as key prerequisites for further study," Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences Adam Falk, wrote in an e-mail to *The News-Letter*.

"Beyond that, we believe that the institution has a duty to its tuition paying families to deliver the promised education experience this semester."

Because of the snow days, many faculty members were concerned about how they were going to cover all the material for their courses.

According to Dean of Undergraduate Education Paula Berger, the administration was contacted by faculty members who were concerned about their next course of action and whether the University had a plan.

The Deans said they decided that allowing professors to make ad hoc arrangements would cause unnecessary chaos.

"That would have been very disruptive to other important activities on campus, not to mention logistically extremely difficult," Falk wrote.

"We decided that it would be a prescription for some chaos if all of these things were handled across hundreds of courses on an ad hoc basis," Burger said.

"Surely there would be schedule conflicts and various make up arrangements overlapping with other make up arrangements. It seemed to us to be logistically quite difficult to do in the absence of a plan."

According to Burger, some parents contacted the administration expressing concerns

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Interim dean selected for School of Arts and Sciences

By SARAH TAN
News & Features Editor

Hopkins has selected an interim dean for the Krieger School of Arts and Sciences.

The temporary replacement will be Professor of Brain and Psychological Sciences and vice provost for academic affairs Michela Gallagher.

She has been chosen by Provost Lloyd Minor and President Ronald Daniels as the stand-in dean to replace Adam Falk.

Falk will be leaving Hopkins on April 1 to assume the presidency at Williams College.

However, Gallagher is a part

of the search committee for a new dean, and therefore is not in line to become the permanent dean, according to University spokesperson Dennis O'Shea.

The search committee headed by Minor is still interviewing candidates for a permanent replacement, and they will not have reached a decision by the time Falk is scheduled to step down.

"It's an important decision, and it takes time to make a decision like that. There are undoubtedly candidates from a lot of places and logistically it's difficult to talk to everybody you

SEE DEAN, PAGE A4

Univ. may spend half million on cleanup

By LAURA MUTH and TARIQ NOAMAN
Staff Writers

As more than 50 inches of snow brought an entire city to a standstill, the employees of Aramark and the Hopkins Office of Facilities Management worked to ensure both the safety and nourishment of the student population on Homewood campus.

Though the blizzards are over, the costs of the cleanups and of operating Hopkins' dining facilities during them remain an issue.

Hopkins spokesperson Dennis O'Shea estimated that the cleanup efforts following the February blizzards, combined with those of the December snow storm that occurred during winter break (which dumped about 20 inches of snow onto Baltimore) cost over \$500,000.

In fact, it was only recently that the cost of the snow removal in December was tallied: approximately \$150,000.

These figures apply solely to snow removal efforts on the Homewood campus.

"For the entire university, the total cost will clearly be multiples of that number, perhaps three or four times that number, though it's difficult to say at



DANIEL LITWIN/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

After monumental snow storms, Hopkins hired a contractor to clear campus.

this point," O'Shea wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*.

Head of the Office of Facilities Management Larry Kildruff also expressed uncertainty as to the extent of the cost of the February storms.

Much of the financial toll of maintaining Homewood facilities during the storms, according to Kildruff, will be divided between overtime payments to employees and the expenses incurred for the contractor hired to clean up the snow.

"We haven't even gotten the invoices from the contrac-

tor yet," he said. "We'd no sooner cleaned up from one storm than another one hit."

He did not have estimates for the other Hopkins campuses but said that the cost was "probably in the neighborhood of \$200,000 for each storm."

Again, Kildruff spoke only with regards to the costs for the Homewood campus.

During the storm, accommodations were provided to employees both the Office of Facilities Management and

Aramark — the Hopkins food

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President Daniels discusses first year at Hopkins

By PETER SICHER
News & Features Editor

Before he was selected as William Brody's replacement, Hopkins President Ronald Daniels was the Dean of Faculty at the University of Toronto Law School prior to serving as the Provost of University of Pennsylvania.

Since he assumed his post at Hopkins in March of 2009, Daniels has had a lot to deal with.

As he nears the end of his first year in office,

The News-Letter sat down with Daniels at the Nichols House, the official residency of the University President, to reflect, discuss his goals for Hopkins in the upcoming years and to get his opinion on how the University weathered the dramatic snowfall.

This is interview the first part of a two-part series.

The News-Letter (N-L): What is your impression of Hopkins after one year?

Ronald Daniels (RD): It has been a wonderful period to get to know the institution. What I've been really moved by is the many pockets of excellence and achievement that I hadn't been aware of before I came to Hopkins...

What I've really been purposeful about is still trying to learn the institution [and] to spend time with faculty in labs and clinical buildings and just see the breadth and depth of the academic mission.

Again, what it has really left me with is the extraordinary excellence that pervades the institution and I really think in terms of the sheer scale of achievement here, there are few institutions that can rival what we've got.



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NEWS & FEATURES



COURTESY OF RACHEL TRUSTY
Students listened intently as Luciano presented his views on race-related issues.

Felipe Luciano brings revolution to Homewood

By BEN GREENFIELD
For *The News-Letter*

Felipe Luciano brought passion and energy to Hopkins as part of this week's Black History Month Tuesday Night Discussion series.

Luciano is best known for his past leadership of the revolutionary Young Lords Party, a Puerto Rican nationalist group that became a powerful force in 1970's Chicago and New York urban politics.

Speaking on the topic of "(R) Evolution in the Black and Hispanic Communities", Luciano linked the absence of revolutionary spirit amongst contemporary African- and Latino-Americans to a lack of ethnic pride and identity. "You wonder why we have a generation of Black students that ain't revolting?", Luciano intoned, before describing the process by which students sacrifice their cultural roots and effectively "become Afro-Saxon."

To punctuate the value of cultural identity, Luciano presented a lengthy and wide-ranging description of Afro-Latino history, spanning from the culture of Golden Age Spain, through the development of American Christianity, and including comparison to Jewish culture and history. For some, this aspect of Luciano's was particularly pertinent.

"The theme of this year's [Black History Month] programs is 'Black is More than a Color.' That is exactly what he talked about," co-chair of the event Rachel Tolbert said.

For some, however, Luciano's history seemed somewhat immoderate.

"Occasionally he was too extreme...putting us on too high a pedestal," freshman Michael Lampart said.

Nonetheless, Lampart and others appreciated Luciano's ability to present a "new perspective" and, especially, to include such a broad and diverse set of histories.

"I decided to pursue a major in Africana Studies because I

never had a chance to study our history, but in trying to learn my own past I sometimes forget about everyone else's," Black Student Union President Mwende Muindi said.

Quickly moving to current events, Luciano lamented a culture of student apathy and called for a new spirit of volunteerism.

On the recent disaster in Haiti, he asked if anyone knew how many doctors and nurses Hopkins had sent as part of the aid initiative. No students were aware.

When told that the recent student-led fundraising had been postponed due to the Baltimore Blizzard, Luciano reached his most passionate moment in an already energetic address.

"You all need a beating! 250,000 people die in one die, it took you a long time to do something!" He blamed the lack of student activism on the rise of two false-Gods, "money and good grades."

A poet and newscaster, Luciano mixed comedy with solemnity and intensity with informality. His remarks had a deeply intimate and personable feel, and the event did not end before Luciano had personally greeted and hugged a fair amount of the audience.

"So many speakers that students hear are 'here, there, I'm out,'" event co-chair Amanda Holder said. "Then you have Mr. Luciano, who after speaking, stays around and even announces his cell phone number."

It was that touch of personal intimacy and multicultural scope that first attracted the co-chairs to Felipe Luciano. "We wanted to bring in all types of communities," Tolbert said. "Sure, when its a party, everybody comes [to BSU events]," Holder added.

In pursuing a speaker that is "accessible and willing to go into detail" the BSU sought to follow in Luciano's footsteps, promoting both deep cultural identity and a willingness to learn about the history and values of other communities.

Four JHU officials to join mayor's transition team

By SARAH SCHULMAN
Staff Writer

Four prominent Hopkins officials have been chosen by Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake to serve on two transition committees, created for the purpose of assisting the mayor in acclimating to the demands of her new position.

The selected members include President Ronald Daniels (who will be represented by Joe Smith from the University's Government, Community and Public Affairs Office) and Professor Philip Leaf from the School of Public Health, both chosen for the Education and Youth Services Committee.

Professor Levi Watkins from the School of Medicine and Richard Bennett, president of Bayview Medical Center, will join the Health and Human Services Committee.

As members of the Education Reform and Youth Services Committee, Leaf and others will be charged with reviewing the existing city programs, focused on the needs of children, youth and education.

Their job, according to a list of tasks supplied by Leaf, is specifically to "recommend measures to accelerate improvements in Baltimore's education system and recreation programs, explore new policies, develop initiatives to make schools the center of communities, ensure optimal use of school facilities and recreation centers and increase coordination between city youth programs and the school system."

The committee will carry out a thorough review of all assigned city agencies in order to assess their effective and efficient usage of public funds and be responsible for reviewing the ethics of policies and practices within each agency.

Ultimately, the co-chairs will establish budgetary priorities that will potentially reduce costs and increase savings based on the committee's input.

While these may appear to be difficult tasks, Leaf has been involved in a number of projects with Baltimore city and state agencies, making him an asset to the transition team.

When asked why he felt he was chosen for the position at hand, he said, "I am a resident of Baltimore and have been a member of the Board of the Family League of Baltimore City since 1995."

He has over 20 years of experience collaborating with community-based organizations in the city.

Despite his level of preparation however, there are many challenges that the Education Reform and Youth Services Committee must face.

"Baltimore needs to ensure that all children enter school ready to learn, attend regularly, develop positive social skills, and assets for ensuring success as adults," Leaf said.

"They need to be healthy and live in safe and supportive families and neighborhoods." He explained that it is important to the committee that all children and youth have the opportunity to succeed, and yet this may be difficult for those with significant



COURTESY OF NIH.GOV

The head of the Hopkins Bayview Medical Center, Richard Bennett, was selected to be a part of the mayor's transition team.

financial and health challenges.

"As a community," Leaf said, "we need to develop and sustain the supports and assets necessary for their success."

Leaf has yet to meet with the mayor herself, but his workgroup has had a series of presentations with agencies so far, and has discussed recommendations, which will later be finalized.

Watkins, a Professor of Cardiac Surgery and Dean of Postdoctoral Programs and Faculty Development in the Hopkins School of Medicine, has also been busy facing the challenges presented to the Health and Human Services Committee, of which he is a co-chair.

According to Watkins, a primary reason for the establishment of these teams by Rawlings-Blake and one of the major hurdles her administration must confront is the huge budget gap of 120 million dollars.

The most arduous task the committees must attempt to accomplish is finding a way to make up the enormous deficit while maintaining the safety and health services of the city and its citizens. Watkins' committee will participate in the same review process as Leaf's.

"What we're going to do," Watkins said, "is we will be looking at six different agencies. They will report to us. They will all come before the committee and they will present their programs as they are currently. Then, based on what they tell us, we will look

for certain things, duplication of services, and if we find them, we will look for ways of eliminating duplication and help reduce the budget gap."

The six agencies which Watkins' committee will review include the Health Department, the fire department, the Commission on Aging, Homeless services, Disability Services, and finally Social Services.

The ultimate goal, according to Watkins is, "Can we help them, through our review, with their effectiveness and efficiency?"

In the health-related area of the committee, members will look at important services provided and help the department explore new public and private partnerships which will further cut the budget. Lastly the committee will look for ways to improve intergovernmental cooperation.

Like Leaf, Watkins has some experience under his belt.

"I was chosen because I had almost three decades as a caregiver and the same amount of time as a medical administrator. Working at Johns Hopkins I've been involved in the administration of medicine and health."

Watkins is also a close friend of Rawlings-Blake and her family.

"I have personally known the Mayor and her father for many years. Personal friendship goes way back. Being aware of people and knowing people is help-

ful and also coming from Johns Hopkins. The city respects Hopkins and I hope to represent the school very well," he said.

Watkins' position is not paid. Although he says he is busy and has a large number of commitments stemming from the variety of posts he holds, he is committed to leading his team.

"We finish the formal work in March, but the informal work, I'm sure that I will be working with Stephanie the whole time."

Both Watkins and Leaf feel that it is too early in her tenure to assess the Mayor's progress fairly thus far.

However, with the recent blizzard affecting the safety and security of the city, both officials feel that her leadership has been tested and that, according to Leaf, "she is making a good effort to identify actions that need to be taken."

As someone who has supported the Mayor both politically and financially for a long time, Watkins said, "The example of what we are doing now, having citizens and reaching out to people to get their input as she makes a transition, that is good, healthy, wise, and what the people of Baltimore want to see. Those are all positive things."

The Health and Human Services Committee will make its final report on March 12.

Smith and Bennett could not be reached for comment by press time.

Hopkins funds slowed creation of energy tax

University and other non-profits donated to city budget during budget crisis

By SHAYNA ABRAMSON
For *The News-Letter*

Almost 10 years ago, Hopkins helped bail out Baltimore City when it was faltering under a budgetary crisis.

In the fiscal years 2001-2005, Hopkins was embroiled in a problem of its own: Baltimore City was considering imposing an energy-consumption tax that would be a major financial burden to the university, given that it is the biggest private employer in the city.

Meanwhile, Baltimore was facing an urgent budgetary shortage. Johns Hopkins University and the Johns Hopkins Health System teamed up with other local non-profit universities and colleges to give Baltimore twenty million dollars in order to save the city from that crisis.

Over half of that twenty million came from Hopkins. This payment is known as a PILOT — Payment In Lieu Of Taxes, and it succeeded in preventing the city from imposing its proposed energy consumption tax.

According to Dennis O'Shea, the university spokesperson, this payment was "a way for the major non-profits to contribute to solving what was then described as an extraordinary but temporary budget crisis in the city."

The decision to contribute towards the PILOT was made jointly by the "senior leadership" of both the university and the health system. According to O'Shea, the main motivation for the decision was "the desire to help without being locked into a permanent tax that we believed then, and believe now, is bad public policy."

The money was taken from the budget of the university and health system.

In 2005, the PILOT deal was not renewed, and the city imposed both an energy consumption tax and a telephone tax on non-profits, including the Johns Hopkins University and Johns Hopkins Health System.

According to O'Shea, Hopkins' telephone and energy taxes average \$3.5 million a year. Hopkins pays an additional \$6.5 million in parking taxes. Over \$60 million of the University's uncompensated medical care is provided to city residents. Property taxes on leased space and owned space used for non-exempt purposes also amount to \$2 million.

"So Johns Hopkins — the university and health system — are making very significant tax and other payments in support of Baltimore City even though we are tax-exempt institutions,"

O'Shea said.

Referring to the Hopkins bailout of Baltimore City, as well as the various programs it provides for Baltimore, senior Jerusha Barton said, "Given the socioeconomic status of the neighborhood its a wonderful thing Hopkins is trying to do, and a generous gesture."

However, she also added, "But I wish more of that money went towards financial aid."

The 3.5 million Hopkins currently pays in energy taxes, when multiplied by four, the number of years Hopkins PILOT payment of slightly over ten million was able to delay the institution of such a tax, shows that through its PILOT Hopkins was able to save itself some cash.

O'Shea raised a different question.

"Is it a good idea to tax non-profit organizations like universities, hospitals, soup kitchens, shelters and other social service agencies?"

He argued that it was not, since "the more you tax these institutions, the more you take away from their ability to do good in the city and the world, the good that they exist to do. Tax nonprofits and you limit their ability to serve society. It's as simple as that."

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NEWS & FEATURES

Lauded composer, instrumentalist, producer and Hopkins student? Perry does it all

By SARAH TAN
News & Features Editor

Hopkins sophomore Ignatius Perry was recording a gospel CD for his friends and family when he began in his senior year at Oxon Hill High School.

When a song from the CD was nominated for a Stellar Award, a type of gospel music award, his mouth almost fell open.

"There was so much work that went into the CD and I didn't really expect any recognition for it, but when I found out it was nominated, I was completely shocked," Perry said.

Perry, along with the choir from his old high school, won the Gospel Music Stellar Award in January for a gospel song that he both played on piano and wrote, entitled "Amazing."

The Gospel Music Awards are presented by the Chicago-based Central City Productions, Inc., and they are considered the premier Gospel music event. The awards take place at the Arie Crown Theater in Chicago.

When Perry went this January, he could barely do anything, he was so excited.

"When we went on stage I completely froze up, the choir director did all the speaking. I was just standing there, my eyes wide open. I didn't expect anything like that to happen."

Perry has been playing the piano since the age of 12, when an older student who was leaving for college sparked his interest

in the piano and taught him the basics of it.

"Eventually I caught on, picked it up, and really started to actually enjoy playing it. When I hit high school, that's when I really started doing work with my high school choir and really learning how to play by ear and how to read music as well."

He first began composing music in high school, when the choir director, Emory Andrews first encouraged him to start writing music and teaching it to the choir.

The summer before his senior year, Perry showed a composition to Andrews and Andrews liked the sound of it.

His school choir had recorded an album in 2001, and Andrews thought that Perry and the choir had the potential to record another.

"He said, well if you guys are up for the work, I think we can do a CD. Once I showed him the song, we sat down and started seeing how plausible it would be to record a CD, and if nothing else it would be good for our family and community to listen to, and it would bring in some revenue for the school choir," Perry said.

Perry added that though it was great to be able to win an award for his work, just the recording itself was great fun, and he hopes to be able to get the opportunity to record at least one more time.

Perry grew up in a fairly religious household in Prince

George's county Maryland. Though he said that he "might not be the most religious person," he still feels that religion has played an important role in his life.

"I feel like a lot of the morals that I was taught, being in a religious family has really carried over, and has helped me to be successful. I think that the encouragement that my church and family had given me and the discipline that being religious instills in a person really helps me out, and it still helps me," Perry said.

He also grew up surrounded by gospel music, which is the reason why he started composing gospel in the first place.

"I was never really particularly interested in gospel," he said.

"It was more that I just always went to church, and this is the type of music that I heard all the time, this is the type of music my parents always played. It actually wasn't until my high school career that I really listened to any other type of music."

"It's not necessarily that I'm religious, it's just that was the type of music that was always in the house, and it's the type of music I'm most comfortable with and what I know best."

In addition, he explained that

gospel as a separate genre of music is difficult to define because it's influenced by many other types of music.

"So actually having an appreciation for other types of music can help make your gospel more unique," Perry said.

Perry's particular composition had a lot of jazz influences, and he took a lot of his cues from great gospel composers.

"[When I wrote the song]

I was listening to Aaron Lindsey, a big gospel keyboard pianist. I was really into his music and how he arranged things and put stuff together, so that had a major influence on what I was writing at the time."

He also added that the lyrics of his song were influenced by the choral composer John Pee Kee, and his music really helped him learn how to compose for a choir. His choir director also helped.

"I learned that just as much as



SARAH TAN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Perry's interest in music production was sparked while he worked on recording his first album.

a song has to sound good, it also has to be something that people enjoy without getting bored because it's too long or something," Perry said.

Since coming to Hopkins, Perry has also expanded his music repertoire.

Though he still continues to play gospel music on the piano with the Hopkins Gospel Choir, he has also played in a jazz band, a cover band, and has composed music for the Vocal Chords.

"I've gotten more opportunities to play different types of music at Hopkins, and it's been a good way to broaden my horizons."

He also hopes to be able to produce an album again, and now that he has broadened his music interests, his next work might not necessarily be gospel music.

"I do hope to pursue music more, not just gospel music, but all types of music," he said.

Now back in Baltimore, though he is still beaming from his success, Perry's keeping his eyes focused on the future.

After recording, Perry also got interested in music production, and since coming to Hopkins, he has started learning how to produce and mix music.

"When I was recording music extras for the CD, I was like 'Wow, this is cool stuff, what's this do?' and when I came to Hopkins, I saw that the DMC had a studio, so I started learning how to do it myself. I'm still learning."

Perry is also an Electrical Engineering major with a focus in audio signalling process, and so he hopes that that will also aid him in learning about producing and recording music.

He hopes that in the future, he'll be able to start his own recording studio to give other young musicians a chance to be heard. However, he still remains grounded and realistic about things.

"I'll probably do something in the Electrical Engineering field until something else opens up, because the music industry is so selective. I do love music, but it's a very hard industry to get really good in. I'll definitely be in the music industry, but it may not be at the beginning of my career," Perry said.



COURTESY OF IGNATIUS PERRY
The Oxon Hill High School gospel choir joined Perry on his gospel song, which won a Stellar Award.

Coming Soon to The News-Letter

Open House

Want to write for The News-Letter? Now is the time to join! Get more information about joining our staff at our open house on Monday. We are also looking for help with graphics, photos, layout and copy reading, so please stop by. Location TBD, see the Daily Announcements for more details.

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The Underground

Our magazine takes an in-depth look at the issues and places that we think you should know about. Learn the hidden side of Baltimore's club scene and what little white pill is troubling Hopkins. Find your new favorite restaurant and learn about the underwater world of Hopkins robotics.

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Hopkins Hospital to share surveillance with City police

By TONY HE
For The News-Letter

In a few weeks, Hopkins Hospital will begin to share its real-time surveillance system with the Baltimore City Police Department in a joint effort to fight crime.

In January, the Mayor's Office on Criminal Justice, which works to reduce crime by uniting local communities with law enforcement agencies, negotiated a decision for the hospital to share its use of advanced security cameras with the police.

"We know that Hopkins has security cameras on campus and at the hospital, so we structured an agreement to access them at our CitiWatch Camera Centers," Baltimore Police spokesperson Anthony Guglielmi said.

In a gesture of goodwill, Johns Hopkins Institutions will donate the computers and software that will be needed in order to feed its own surveillance system into Baltimore's CitiWatch Program.

This system consists of more than 500 cameras situated all over Baltimore that provide live footage into several police stations.

Without spending any money, the police will benefit from the hospital's 136 closed-circuit television cameras (commonly known as CCTV security cameras).

The total cost of the hospital's surveillance system is over \$4 million.

Currently, these CCTV security cams provide the hospital's security department with high-quality footage of the perimeters surrounding the medical campus.

On top of recording sharp images, these cams also utilize powerful software to identify potential emergencies and detect unusual actions.

For example, if a person faints on the street, a computer program can detect the falling motion and alert supervisors of a possible situation.

In addition, a supervisor in the control room can use these cameras to track individual movements by locking on, zooming in, and essentially following the person of interest. These cameras also work at night.

"There will be more eyes on the ground, and we can keep a better tab on what's going on in the city," Guglielmi said.

According to Guglielmi, other private institutions, such as the Maryland Science Center, have already been sharing video footage with the Baltimore police.

However, what makes this Hopkins deal unique is that a live camera feed, supported by sophisticated software, will be

incorporated with CitiWatch for the first time. Most private institutions do not possess such an extensive surveillance system.

This partnership will allow the police to respond to incidents as they occur, helping to provide an extra layer of safety to employees of the medical campus.

As local citizens may know, some of the neighborhoods in east Baltimore are not particularly safe.

Last September, an employee of the Kennedy Krieger Institute was shot at as she left the building. A stray bullet was lodged into her purse.

"I think that sharing surveil-

lance with the police is a great idea," said Lucky Pellakuru, a graduate student in the School of Medicine's Department of Pathology.

"I can understand the privacy concerns, but I think that it will keep us safer."

In return for the hospital's donations, CitiWatch plans to sync a few of its own live cameras located near the medical campus with the hospital's security system.

The Baltimore police is also making plans to strike similar arrangements with the Maryland Transit Administration, which owns and operates security cameras at its bus and light rail stations.



Barbara Swan, courtesy of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

PEABODY CHAMBER OPERA PRESENTS TRANSFORMATIONS

BY CONRAD SUSA

A work for eight singers based on Anne Sexton's comic and tormented retelling of the Grimm fairy tales

Friday-Saturday, February 19-20, 2010, 7:30 pm

Sunday, February 21, 2010, 3:00 pm

Theatre Project

45 West Preston Street

Baltimore

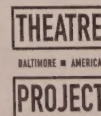
Jennifer Blades, Stage Director

JoAnn Kulesza, Music Director

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THE PEABODY CONSERVATORY
OF THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

NEWS & FEATURES

Daniels discusses affordability, snow cleanup and East Baltimore

Future goals include need-blind admissions process, improved community relations and urban renewal

DANIELS, FROM A1

we have to double and redouble our efforts to focus on supporting individual achievement and making sure that we are being very vigorous in recruiting the best people to Johns Hopkins. . . . For me, the university really stands as a unique institution just in the focus it places on individual self-realization, worrying about whether we're doing all we can to support individual achievement and for people to feel they have the support to take intellectual risks, to be daring in whatever endeavors they are involved in. . . . So the focus on the individual I think is very important and has clear implications for a number of things I'd like to see happen at the university.

The second thing is the focus I placed on the idea of Johns Hopkins as one university: as one coherent, deeply linked, intellectual community.

That's something that I think is important for us, given the considerable intellectual and moral energy that is distributed throughout our broad University but often not brought together around common problems, common challenges that confront society.

I think that's something that's very important for me, to try to do as much as possible break down the barriers that impede intellectual collaboration and intellectual exchange.

In a setting where we have intellectual inquiry organized by schools and by departments for very good reasons — that's important — but there are moments when you have deep permeability across those silos and when you look at Johns Hopkins and you see programs like biomedical engineering or you see things that we're doing in nano-science or you see things that we're doing in computational biology or you even see the undergraduate program in public health, you'll see that these are all undertaking initiatives, that cross different parts of the University and respond on a deeply felt need on the part of some of our members about wanting to do something that straddles different parts of the University.

So in some ways this idea of

one university and of trying as much as possible to create an environment of where it's very easy to have conversations across different perspectives and to collaborate and learn across different perspectives, I think it's something that Johns Hopkins has a history of doing extremely well and it's something that also links very clearly in my mind to the first priority — that is, starting with the primacy of the individual and thinking about how do we make it as easy as possible for students, for faculty to be able to think and learn in ways that are not impeded by artificial organizational constraints.

I think there is a linkage between this idea of a coherent, integrated intellectual community that's one university and at the same time the importance that I'm placing on thinking about individual self-realization. The third priority that I've sounded and also one that I think resonates very deeply with various parts of the University is the focus on Johns Hopkins and its communities.

I say "communities" plural because of course one wants to think about the immediate community that is Baltimore and the region and then I think there is a number of very important initiatives that we have underway.

On the undergraduate side, it's striking when you look at the amount of time our undergraduate students contributed to various local needs over the past year. It's something in the order of 1,200 students generating 45,000 volunteer hours. This is a really marked contribution to the community.

It's interesting. There are times when I'm out pounding the pavement for Johns Hopkins and people will talk to me about "Thanks for what your kids did." It's funny because I have to pause for a moment and say "Are you talking about my

kids? My four children?" You just stop and try and get context for what they're saying and clearly it takes only a second to realize what they're really talking about is the undergraduate population and the way in which it has volunteered its time and energy.

Whether it's beautifying certain neighborhoods, volunteering in schools, participating in various public health related activities, there is a real energy and an impact that our undergraduate population is having. I think that's great.

So I think this idea of Johns Hopkins and the community is pretty important for Baltimore and even over the past several months one of things that I've spent a lot of time on and have been very intrigued by is the major initiative that we have underway in East Baltimore.

N-L: EBDI?

RD: Which I know you focused on several weeks ago with Chris Shea. This is something where when you look at really ambitious, daring, imaginative, urban redevelopment projects, EBDI is

There is a real energy and an impact that our undergraduate population is having. I think that's great.

— RONALD DANIELS

peerless in the United States, just in terms of the sheer audacity of its vision and its determination not just to physically rejuvenate the area of East Baltimore but to actually build a thriving, stable, healthy community.

As we think about that enterprise, again, Johns Hopkins has a very big role to play. Hopkins has always played a significant role in East Baltimore but now there is a really interesting opportunities to harness the schools in East Baltimore to contribute to public health issues, to funnel into the Pre-K to 12 education programs and the K-12 programs that are there, and lots of this is currently going on, but there are real opportunities here to step up our game in East Baltimore and I think that's a very profound way in which we can impact the community.

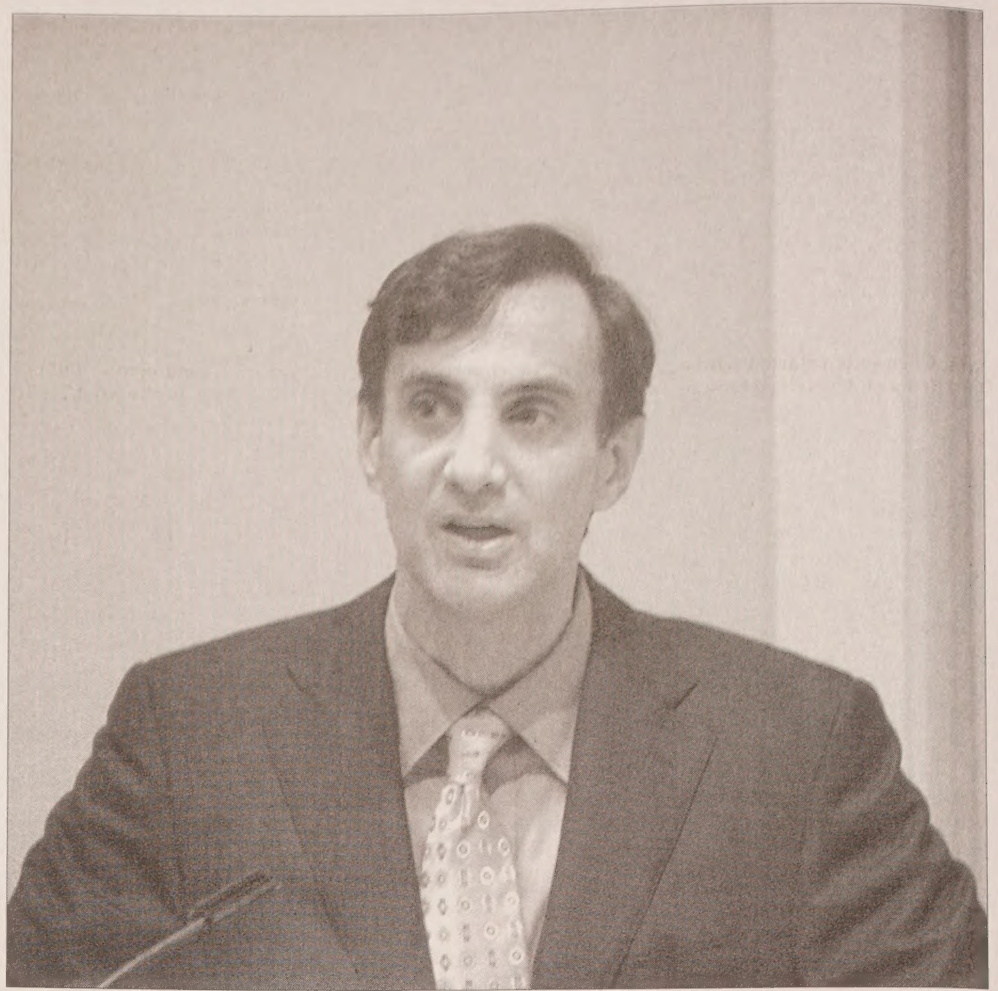
Going beyond, as I've said, it's not about community, it's about communities.

Our energy and impact on community are not limited to East Baltimore and I was really struck by the multiple efforts that were active in over the past month with respect to Haiti and having 20 student groups from a number of different parts of the undergraduate population coalescing around Haitian relief.

I thought that was fabulous. And then, of course, you couple that with the efforts of Jhpigo and the School of Medicine and you really see the impact that Johns Hopkins can have on assisting some of the most challenging situations confronting the world.

This is something that we do, we do very well. I'm just hoping that we can find more ways to support what I see to be a very deeply felt need to engage the community.

N-L: Going back to helping individuals, what are your plans



FILE PHOTO

Ronald Daniels has served as President of Hopkins since March 2, 2009. He was formerly Provost of the University of Pennsylvania.

to help students affected by the recession?

RD: As I said a moment ago, if we think about the primacy of the individual at the university and universities should be devoted to individual self-realization and really give opportunities for that kind of enrichment, one has to start with the question of which individuals. And that, not surprisingly, translates very naturally into a real focus on accessibility.

As I have said from the moment I came to Johns Hopkins, one of the really important challenges that we must address as an institution relates to the way in which we provide undergraduate financial aid.

Currently, as you know, Johns Hopkins is a need-aware, not a need-blind institution. I said during my installation address that one of the clear goals for the next several years is to very vigorously work towards making Johns Hopkins a need-blind institution.

That means strategic investment in financial aid and it means that we should as a University try to use whatever discretionary resources we have, and we don't have a lot, it's a very tight budget, but nevertheless, I think that it's important that we do what we can in terms of our own budgeting decisions to put money into financial aid.

That's why the two Deans, of the Krieger and the Whiting Schools, they're increasing the amount of funds they're investing in financial aid.

I am putting additional funds from central pools into financial aid and that's a very direct way in which we're able to demonstrate that even in these times of significant financial strain and pressure on the University that we have the power to call out a priority that is compelling and urgent and to respond to it.

That's what we're doing. This year we will be more accessible than we were last year and I'm determined to be able to say that until we get to the

point that we can proclaim the University as a need-blind institution and that we join the pantheon of great universities that offer need-blind admission programs.

We're going to get there and the academic leadership of the two schools shares my goal but we have to do so in a way that once we make that commitment we can sustain it. That's a top priority.

N-L: In terms of tuition itself, do you have any plans to try and rein in the increasing price of tuition?

RD: I think it's absolutely clear that given the tuition levels that we have now, and given the changing financial circumstances of families whose children come to Johns Hopkins, that it behooves us to be very aggressive in controlling costs and in keeping tuition increases as low as possible.

It's a subject that we've discussed regularly. . . . there's a real appreciation that we have to double and redouble our efforts to make difficult decisions with respect to how we deliver our academic mission with a view to limiting tuition increases as much as possible.

That's well understood and

N-L: Are you happy with the way Hopkins handled last week's snowstorms?

RD: The University did a fabulous job. I was so impressed when I came in from Philadelphia, where I was visiting with my kids this past weekend, and came in to Baltimore and the city did not look great but then you step into the campus and the roads were clear, the sidewalks were clear, food services were being maintained and I was really impressed with the operations crews who worked through several nights this past week to clear the place of snow, to keep facilities running.

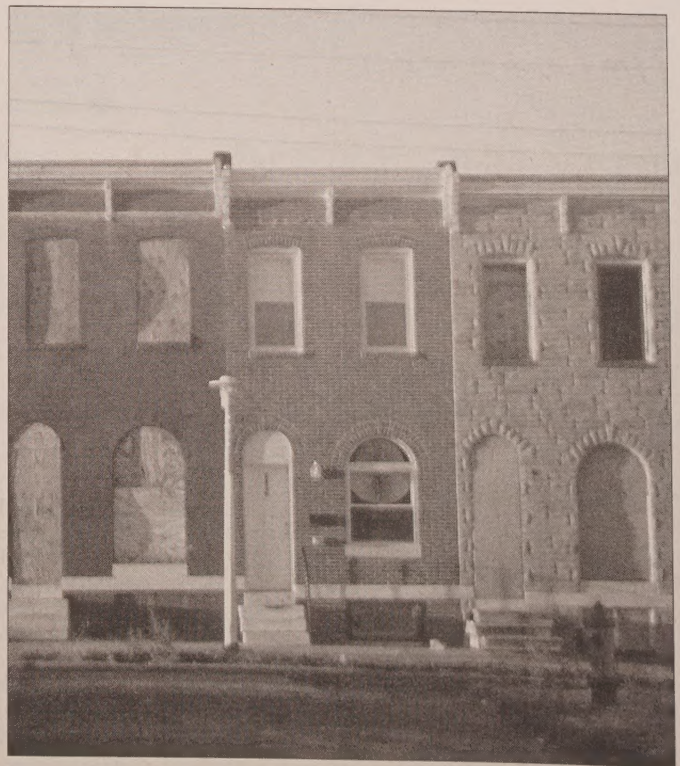
Although we wish that the City of Baltimore would have been able to manage the situation in a way that would have allowed us to stay open, nevertheless, those of us who were on campus this past week, I think we were very well served by our support staff.

N-L: Going back to EBDI, talking to residents there is still some resentment over the project. What are your plans to improve relations and communications with long term residents of East Baltimore?

RD: Our ability to contribute constructively and creatively to the rejuvenation of East Baltimore is predicated on trust and open communication.

This after all is a neighborhood of ours and is it important that our neighbors are able to shape and inform the way in which we contribute to that rejuvenation.

I think that trying to listen to the community, to seek their counsel and advice on ways in which we can contribute to the East Baltimore Development Initiative is paramount. In that respect over the past year or so I've had several meetings in large groups and smaller one-off meetings I've met with leaders and residents from East Baltimore to get a sense of how Johns Hopkins can contribute more effectively to the community and to respond to the priorities they identify for the community.



FILE PHOTO

Daniels said he had worked to improve the University's relations with residents of East Baltimore, pictured above. To Daniels, EBDI is an opportunity for urban renewal.

it's important that we get financial aid right but it's also important that even for students who are not going to be eligible for financial aid that we do what we can to modulate tuition increases in this environment.

Michela Gallagher named interim Dean of Krieger School

DEAN, FROM A1

want to talk to. It's not something you rush through," O'Shea said.

According to an e-mail from Minor and Daniels, Gallagher has been a faculty member since 1997 and is known for her research on the aging brain. She has also served on the faculties of other universities before coming to Hopkins, and is very familiar with the Arts and Sciences administrative duties.

The search committee is a 20-person team that consists of one senior undergraduate, one graduate student, as well as History Professor Gabrielle Spiegel and English Professor Frances Ferguson. The committee includes representatives from near-



COURTESY OF JHU/EDU

Gallagher will be replacing Adam Falk.

ly every division of Hopkins.

The committee said that they are not limiting their search to only candidates from Hopkins or with a background from the Krieger School of Arts and Sciences.

Thus far, there has been no date set as to when a permanent dean will be selected.

CORRECTIONS

In the Feb. 4 edition of *The News-Letter*, an article in the News and Features section titled "Students enjoy snow day" incorrectly stated that student outcry caused the cancellation of Monday classes. It was the cancellation of the JHMI Shuttle that caused the cancellation of classes.

In the News and Features section, writer Sarah Schulman's last name was misspelled.

In the News and Features section, a graphic on A2 mis-stated that there was a 21.7 percent decrease in average college donations. The graphic meant to say there was a 21.7 percent decrease in Hopkins' donations.

The News-Letter regrets these errors.

Inside the lion’s head: Dancing group continues ancient traditions

Student Lion Dancing group has danced in New York City and recieved performance requests from as far away as Singapore

By **RIAN DAWSON**
Staff Writer

There are several misconceptions when it comes to Chinese lion dancing. But the biggest myth, the officers of the dance troupe say, is that you have to be Chinese to be in it. Nothing is farther from the truth.

The multicultural troupe has been around since 2004, Vice President Richard Chen said.

Though the troupe’s formation was before his time at Hopkins, Chen said it started with a lone drum and has since grown.

“The club started with a single lion and a drum that was funded by the Alumni association,” Chen said.

“Since then, we have become more well known among the local community and beyond, having performed as far as New York City at the Harvard club and locally alongside the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra.”

“We have also gotten requests from abroad, like Singapore, but have had to decline because there would be no possible way for us to economically to get there, much less perform,” he said.

There are several stories that boast the origin of lion dancing, all of which have a certain mythological approach, Chen said.

Regardless of the folklore, lion dancing is a symbol of luck. It is supposed to bring wealth to its audiences and ward off evil.

“Several versions describe a monster named Nien, which came at every Lunar New Year’s eve to destroy crops and wreak havoc on villages,” Chen said.

“One version then has a Buddha which tames this beast and brings it back to his temple as a pet of sorts.”

“Another version has this same beast, Nien, being scared off by a lion, which defended the entrance to a temple. The following year, the monster came back, but the lion was not around to defend the villages and farmers.”

“As a result

cific chang, our performances consist of segments of free styling, where members can show off their skill and agility, and more choreographed sections where the lions will be in sync, as well as eating and grooming segments.”

The number of members varies, but there are, on average, at least 10 to 15 members who consistently attend rehearsal.

Many of the members had always been interested in lion dancing and finally decided to try it upon coming to Hopkins.

“It’s been pretty cool,” said freshman Angela Hsieh, who joined the troupe at the beginning of the academic year.

“I’d heard of this and I didn’t realize that I’d ever join one of these troupes,” she said.

“A friend of mine, a sophomore, had told me about the troupe the previous year. I was really looking forward to that when I came to Hopkins.”

Senior Ryan Ly said he had already developed an interest when friends got him involved in lion dancing.

“My suitemates were in lion dance, and I was somewhat interested in Lion Dance beforehand,” he said.

“My martial arts school had lion dance but I never got so involved in it. It was also a good form of exercise for me because I didn’t have any other at the time.”

With the myriad performances and height-defying moves, several members recalled their favorite moments while lion dancing as those involving the actual dancing.

“My favorite memory is probably the first time I ever ‘suicided’ on someone,” Vice President Sophie Su said.

“A suicide is probably our unique term for when the per-



FILE PHOTO
The Lion Dancing group performed in the Culture Show this past fall. Though they do not compete, members perform on request, including on the weekend of Chinese New Year. The group has rapidly expanded and become more popular since its start in 2004.

We have become more well known among the local community and beyond, having performed as far as New York City.

**RICHARD CHEN,
—CLUB VICE PRESIDENT**

the townsfolk made fake lions in the image of the real one and with drums, gongs and cymbals scared away the monster. Another story has the emperor Ting Ming Wang dream of lion dancing and has his choreographer write out everything he told him,” he said.

Much of the footwork in lion dancing is based on martial arts stances, like those found in Kung Fu, Chen said.

Performances are centered around an object known as the chang.

“The chang is an object that the lion works to obtain,” Chen said. “This chang can be as simple as a bunch of lettuce that must be stalked, or an elaborate puzzle that must be solved or even a creature that must be defeated, such as a snake or crab.”

“Ignoring the more intricate details involved with each spe-

son in the lion head stands on the shoulder of the tail,” she said.

“It’s this intimidating technique we use. Its fun and really thrilling,” she added..

Ly recalled a similar memory.

“My favorite memories are probably the first few times I was stacked, where either you’re lifted on to the knees or shoulders of another member of the troupe,” Ly said.

“You’re really high up there, kind of like flying.”

Vincent Yeh, senior, recalled a more comical anecdote.

“Back as a sophomore when I first joined, I was the base for one of the senior members,” Yeh said. “For culture show, I basically acted like the cloud for the Buddha. After I finished stacking, I just ran off the stage. It was a pretty funny moment because it was on camera,” he said.

Chen recalled traveling with the troupe for performances.

“While we travel to performances that are further away, just being able to have fun on the car ride there is one of the best parts.”

The club does not compete but they do perform by request, Chen said.

“The frequency of our trips depends on how many requests we get. Right now, we have a lot because of Chinese New Year. This past weekend, we originally had six performances scheduled but a majority of them rescheduled because of the snow,” he said.

According to Chen, most of the performances take place locally.

Performances for the group range from 20-30 a year, and have steadily increased since its inception.

2009 EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARDS FINALIST

Tell us who the best teachers and teaching assistants at Hopkins are, so they can receive the recognition they deserve. Nominations are now being accepted for the 2010 Excellence in Teaching Awards for the best faculty and teaching assistants. Whiting School of Engineering and Krieger School of Arts and Sciences committees are now accepting nominations.

Deadline to submit your nomination is February 24th 2010!

Nominations may be submitted by undergraduate and graduate students, faculty members and alumni. Letters must be descriptive and should be between one paragraph and one page in length.

To submit your nomination, visit:
<http://krieger.jhu.edu.teachingaward>

NEWS & FEATURES

College News in Brief

Substance abuse researcher faces charges of larceny, perjury

William Fals-Stewart, a former researcher on substance abuse at the University of Buffalo, is being charged with attempted grand larceny, perjury and other felony counts. Fals-Stewart left the University in 2005 when he was accused of inflating the number of participants in a study funded by the Federal Government.

He was later acquitted, after which he filed a \$4 million lawsuit claiming that he was wrongfully terminated. For the hearing, Fals-Stewart hired three local actors to pose as witnesses. They testified over the phone because Fals-Stewart said they were out of town.

The actors believed they were taking part in a mock trial and will not be charged.

— Peter Sicher

Williams College moves to eliminate need-blind aid

Due to its "changed financial situation" Williams College is changing its need-blind admissions process for international students. Admissions officers will not know the level of an applicant's need but they will know which applicants have applied for financial aid. The policy will take effect this fall. The announcement was made by interim president Bill Wagner.

— Peter Sicher

University of Iowa considers cutting up to 14 graduate programs

The University of Iowa has released a list of graduate programs that may be restructured or completely eliminated to save the university money.

A task force appointed by the university's provost began evaluating programs last spring. Fourteen programs, half of which are in the humanities department, have been categorized as "additional evaluation required" with "significant problems" and no "viable plans for improvement."

A final decision for recommendations to the Board of Regents will be made in September.

— Laura Muth

Michigan school promises job within graduation year or refund

Lansing Community College has promised that they will return a student's tuition if they do not get a job within a year of completing one of four non-credit training programs for jobs in the fields of pharmacy technician, customer service call center workers, certified quality inspectors and home technology integration technicians.

— Laura Muth

California college considers revising core curriculum for the fall

The faculty at the California Institute of Technology are considering overhauling the University's notoriously difficult core curriculum.

They are reviewing proposals that would include a more diverse selection of science courses in the core curriculum that would focus less on physics and mathematics lectures and more on hands-on teaching and writing.

If approved, the changes will take effect this fall.

— Peter Sicher



BESTUNIVERSITIESINUSA.COM
Caltech wants an easier core curriculum.

Public universities, state agencies in Nevada face loss of funding

Jim Gibbons, the Republican Governor of Nevada, is proposing a 10-percent budget cut for all state agencies.

The budget cut would affect public higher-education institutions. Gov. Gibbons is also calling for college professors to take a 2-percent pay cut.

Professors already took a 4-percent pay cut last year.

—By Peter Sicher

Alabama professor allegedly opens fire on colleagues, kills three

Biology professor Amy Bishop allegedly opened fire on her colleagues at a faculty meeting Friday.

The meeting had been in progress for roughly an hour when witnesses said Bishop stood and began shooting the other faculty members present, starting with those closest to her and going down the line. Three were killed and another three wounded.

Eventually Debra Moriarty, a biochemistry professor and dean of the graduate school, managed to push Bishop out of the room and shut the door. Several other uninjured faculty members helped to block the door with a table and called emergency services.

The university's professor said Moriarty's actions may have saved the lives of other faculty members involved.

Allegedly, the incident was triggered by Bishop's frustration at not making tenure at the university.

— Laura Muth

University of Texas challenges Mutual Mobile iPhone app

Mutual Mobile is facing conflict with the University of Texas for its recently released iPhone application, the iTexas.

The university claims that the name is confusing, since they also recently released their own official iPhone application on the exact same day.

Similar conflicts have arisen in the past, when Mutual Mobile had an app called "UT Directory," which made it easy for users to search through staff and student directories. Eventually the company had to get rid of the program.

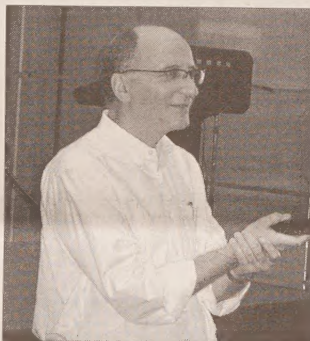
The new iTexas app provides users with class schedules, cafeteria menus and campus maps, among other features. However, it could be removed from Apple's store at any time.

— Laura Muth

Middlebury might limit tuition hikes for future students

Middlebury College is considering limiting increases in its comprehensive fee (the total cost of tuition and room and board.) The move was proposed by the college's president, Ronald Liebowitz, and will be presented to the board of trustees this week.

Liebowitz suggests that the comprehensive fee be kept within a percentage point above the Consumer Price Index each year.



COURTESY OF OISE.UTORONTO.CA
Willinsky wants scholarly journals to be free for schools in developing countries.

Stanford professor works to enable easier access to scholarly journals

Stanford University professor John Willinsky is leading in the development of "open access" scholarly journals.

These journals are published online and offer free subscriptions, allowing universities in developing nations with limited funds to access to a greater number of scholarly publications and facilitating a greater international exchange of ideas.

They also provide software that allows professors and scholars with limited resources to publish their research findings online for review and study.

Willinsky acknowledges that there are potential problems, such as less-reliable research studies being published and disseminated on a greater scale, but believes that the benefits of this exchange will outweigh those risks.

— Laura Muth

DNA tests link city man to multiple rape cases

A 19 year-old man from Baltimore charged for a rape in Canton in December and two other attacks has been forensically linked to a fourth attack, also in the Canton area, committed in 2007.

The man, Donald Vaughn, was arrested on Dec. 20. Vaughn had been under juvenile supervision in Virginia, but those officials did not notify Maryland officials that Vaughn was returning to the Baltimore area or that he was the suspect in two Virginia rape cases.

City council panel considers fee for plastic bag use

Councilman Bill Henry is pushing to implement a fee for using plastic bags in order to encourage consumers to use more eco-friendly products, such as reusable cloth bags or recyclable paper bags.

The bill would require retailers to charge 25 cents per bag and would fine those who did not comply.

A similar fee was implemented in D.C. at the beginning of the year.

First Mariner Bank offers new price on shares

In an attempt to raise \$20 million, First Mariner Bancorp announced a price offering it will extend to existing shareholders. They will have the opportunity to buy up to 17.4 million shares for \$1.15 each. On Tuesday the market closed with shares priced at \$1.43.

First Mariner Bancorp is Baltimore's largest independent bank. Since the recession began, they have been monitored closely by the Federal Reserve and are seeking to raise capital levels.

Mayor supports growth of gaming industry beyond slots

Baltimore's new mayor, Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, has spoken out in favor of expanding the state's small slot-machine gambling program to include table games, such as blackjack, poker, craps and roulette. She is joining the growing ranks of lawmakers supportive of such action.

The mayor said those games would make any Baltimore gambling parlor competitive with others in the state and the region.

However, other lawmakers argue that they should wait to see how much revenue is gained from the slots before expanding the gambling business in Baltimore.

Seven cruise ship crew members confirmed carbon monoxide poisoning

Seven crew members aboard the Celebrity Mercury, a cruise ship bound for Baltimore, were sickened with carbon monoxide poisoning.

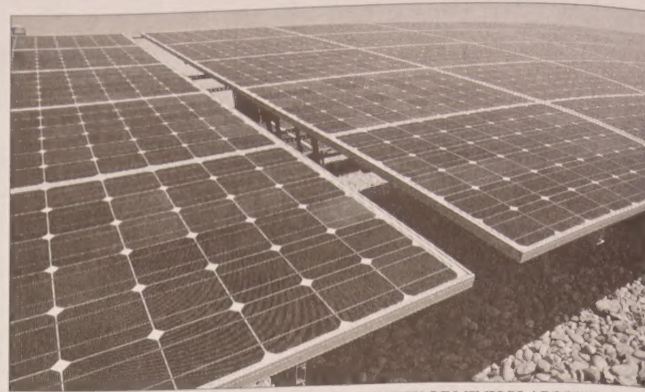
A crew from the fire department and a hazmat team met the ship at the dock when it arrived on Saturday to treat the crew and test the ship.

The Celebrity Mercury takes passengers on 9- to 12-night long cruises to the Caribbean.

The crew members became ill on the return trip.

Hazmat teams are still searching for the source of the leak.

City News in Brief



COURTESY OF MINISOLARPOWER.COM

Constellation Energy is investing \$90 million in solar energy for the commercial market.

Constellation Energy to invest in solar projects

Constellation Energy Group, Inc., the parent company of Baltimore Gas and Electric Company, has pledged to invest \$90 million in developing solar power systems for the commercial market. About \$18 million of that commitment will be going to projects in Maryland and New Jersey.

City police officer investigated for interference in a criminal trial

Lieutenant Joann Voelker, a police officer in a unit that deals with wiretapping and phone tracking, is under investigation after she allegedly approached a defendant and his lawyer and told him not to take a plea deal, saying that the charges against him would be dropped.

The defendant in question, Barry Snyder, identified Voelker and told authorities she had once worked with his mother. However, Voelker was not involved in Snyder's arrest.

Voelker might be placed on the "Do Not Call" list, which is compiled by the State Attorney's office and lists officers who are believed to be of questionable integrity and will no longer be asked to testify in cases. All their past and pending cases are then considered doubtful and can easily become subject to appeal.

City sheriff's race already gaining momentum

Even though candidates have until July 6 to register for the sheriff's election, four challengers have already emerged to run against incumbent John Anderson.

Three of the new candidates are Democrats, like Anderson. Their names are Deborah Claridy, Frances Hamilton and Carlos Torres.

The sole Republican is David Anthony Wiggins.

New City Council president sworn in to replace Rawlings-Blake

Bernard "Jack" Young, the former representative of Baltimore's 12th district, was unanimously elected by the council to replace Stephanie Rawlings-Blake as City Council President, following Rawlings-Blake's appointment to the position of mayor.



BALTIMORECITYGOV.ORG
Young is the new City Council President.

Real estate asking prices decrease by 31 percent in Baltimore

Thirty-one percent of properties on the market in Baltimore are being listed for less than their original asking price, according to the real estate search engine Trulia. The average reduction in price was 12 percent.

Trial of "cult" members involved in death of toddler to begin Monday

Queen Antoinette, also known as Toni Sloan or Toni Ellberry, and her daughter Trevia Williams face charges of starving a 16-month-old boy.

Prosecutors claim that the two are members of a religious cult and starved the boy because he did not say "amen" after meals.

The two women plan on representing themselves at the trial. Jury selection began yesterday. Monday is set as the first day of testimony in the case.

There are two other men also facing prosecution in the case for child abuse resulting in death. Several other individuals believed to be involved have had charges against them dropped after they agreed to testify for the prosecution.

—City briefs by Laura Muth

Hopkins News in Brief

Hopkins' Sheridan Libraries to lead "data conservancy" program

The Sheridan Libraries are leading a five-year "Data Conservancy" project to preserve scientific data. The project will cost \$20 million and seeks to create infrastructure to support the preservation and curation of scientific data. The project will build a cyberinfrastructure that will help with the management of increasing amounts of digital information.

Recent study shows correlation between obesity and kidney stones

A recently released study from Hopkins published in the Journal of Urology shows that people who are obese are almost two times as likely to develop kidney stones.

The study also found, however, that the degree of obesity is irrelevant to the degree of risk for kidney stones.

The study was led by Brian R. Matlaga, an assistant professor of Urology at the School of Medicine.

The researchers used a national database of insurance claims which had information about participants' weight and whether or not they had been diagnosed with kidney stones.

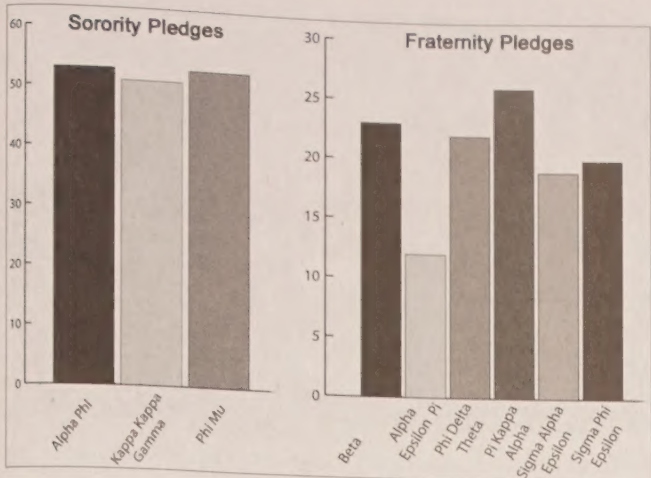
—Hopkins briefs by Peter Sicher

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NEWS & FEATURES



ANNE FABER/GRAPHICS EDITOR

Greek organizations see different turnouts for rush

All three sororities accepted more pledges

RUSH FROM A1
was the result of a recommendation by the NPC. He added that this happened with other chapters at other universities as well. As rush week included two rounds that followed the same program, with both days designed for rushees to get to know the different sororities, taking away one round was deemed reasonable, especially because the women had the opportunity to get to know one another through previous events in the fall. Valle, who pledged Kappa Kappa Gamma, commented that attending fall events had allowed her to meet sorority members before recruitment started.

Officers of Alpha Phi, Kappa Kappa Gamma and Phi Mu all declined to comment on rush week and recruitment.

While not all official numbers for the fraternities are available at present, most reported an increase in pledge numbers and an overall positive turnout that exceeded expectations despite inclement weather.

"The snow stopped a couple of events, but other than the few cancelled events, rush went really well this year," Sigma Chi Rush Chair Tom Ronan said.

A total of 201 men registered for recruitment this year, according to Turning, though not all of them are sure to join.

"I think the overall increase in numbers shows that Greek life is an important part of the community here," said Michael Testa, Sigma Alpha Epsilon rush chair.

Testa identified this year's freshman class size, which provided a large recruiting pool, as one reason for the increase in pledges.

He also attributed the growth to Greek Week, started two years ago by the Office of Greek Life, the Inter-Fraternity Council and the Panhellenic Council.

Testa said that this series of events and competitions helped

to promote the presence of Greek life on campus.

Some fraternities attributed their success to more variety and creativity in programming.

"For a lot of the fraternity events, you watch something, or play a sport, which is not really conducive to conversation," said Beta Theta Pi rush chair Rip Bussey (Sex Columnist for *The News-Letter*).

"So we tried to have different ways of spending time that would encourage conversation . . . [For example], a lot of times freshman year, you don't have access to a car to get to places that are far out from campus, or you can't really afford to eat in some places; so one of the things we

did was take [the men] out to different restaurants."

Beta Theta Pi has reported 23 pledges, a significant increase from last year's 11.

Phi Delta Theta also cited their various events, such as "pool and poker night," cook-outs, jamming

sessions and karaoke nights, as important factors in attracting rushees.

"In general, this year, fraternities took advantage of the large freshman class and did a good job reaching out to them during the fall," Alexandros Afthinos, executive secretary of Phi Delta Theta, wrote in an e-mail to *The News-Letter*.

Thus far, Alpha Epsilon Pi reported 12 pledges, Phi Delta Theta reported 22, Pi Kappa Alpha 26, Sigma Alpha Epsilon 19 and Sigma Phi Epsilon 20.

Turning agreed with the general sentiment that the increase in sorority and fraternity pledges could be seen as the outcome of efforts to make Greek life more appealing.

"The groups in leadership are doing a better job incorporating Greek life into campus life. Groups are doing the right things, and that's appealing to a broader spectrum of people."

FAS hosts controversial Bush lawyer John Yoo

YOO FROM A1
poll of scholars on the best Presidents in United States history, Yoo said "[The best presidents] responded by expanding the powers of their office and the reach of their office. The worst presidents...shrunk into a shell and deferred to the other branches of government."

Yoo's talk focused mainly on the ideas expressed in his new book. "The basic thesis of the book is that it explains what these great presidents have in common and what the worst ones do. It has a lot to do with their views of the constitution."

"Abraham Lincoln forms the heart of the book. The juxtaposition of Buchanan and Lincoln illustrates the thesis. Buchanan actually thinks that secession is unconstitutional. Contrast that with Lincoln — he shares the same view on secession, but he thinks as President he has the power to protect the country from being divided in two," Yoo said.

"Lincoln raises an army and navy, takes money out of the treasury — powers specifically given to Congress in the constitution. Lincoln went on throughout the civil war to exercise unilateral powers. Lincoln's view was directly in conflict with those of the other branches of government. Lincoln acted quite against the views of the other branches when he issued the Emancipation Proclamation. At the same time he understood there was a limit on his power."

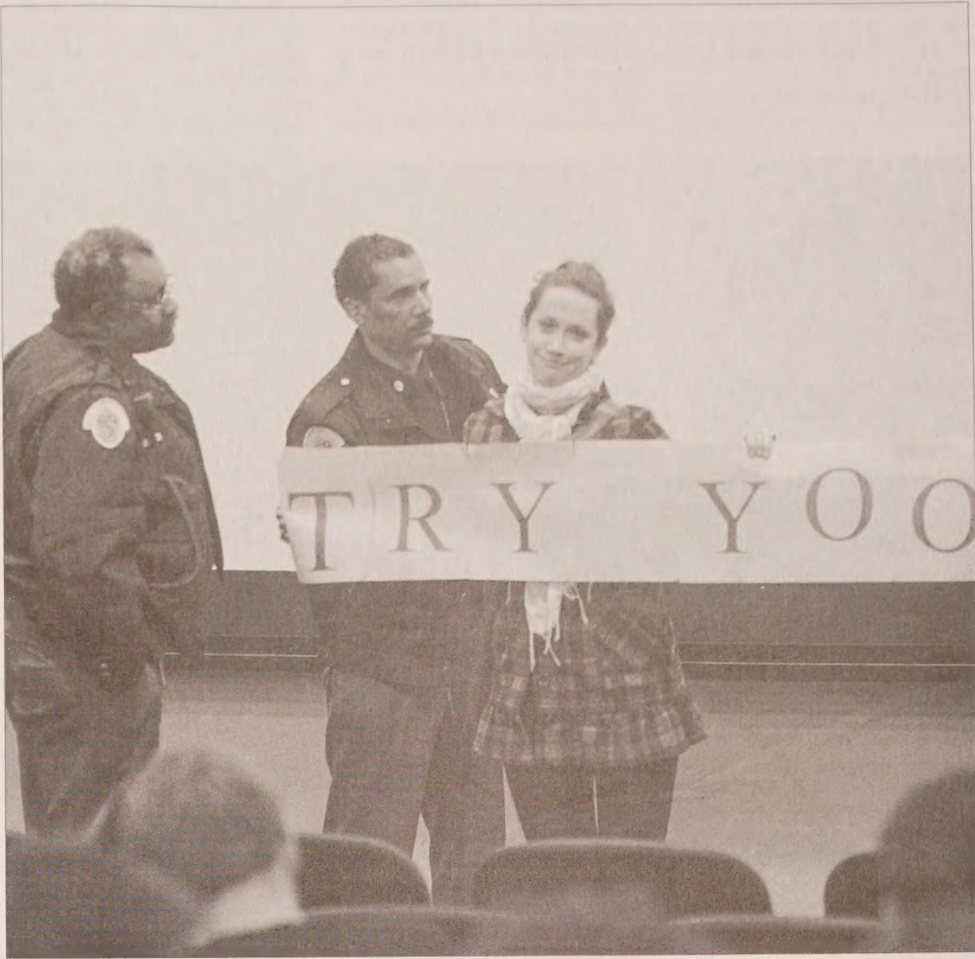
In describing his overall points made in the book on the nature of the presidency, Yoo said that "Power expands, as it was meant to do, during periods of war, and in periods of peace usually retracts. This is very much in keeping with the framer's original decision of the presidency. The reason it's one person is so that the presidency could act swiftly and decisively."

Yoo also discussed his views of the Obama administration. He said that although at the beginning of Obama's term, it seemed as if the administration was embracing a kind of vision where the presidency would be more modest in foreign affairs, that view is changing.

"Changes in the current administration [in the past few months]...the surge in the troops in Afghanistan with no congressional consent or advice...all reflect that President Obama is embracing a broader view of the office than the one he originally started with a year ago. The final irony of the Obama administration, if he succeeds, [is that] he would have done it in ways that weren't what he campaigned for."

During the question and answer section Yoo was asked more about the memos he wrote during his time at the Bush Administration. One student asked Yoo about the interrogation techniques and why they were necessary.

Yoo responded that "The problems in this conflict [against Al Qaeda] that caused



DANIEL LITWIN/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Several graduate students protested FAS speaker Yoo, who authored controversial legal memos for the Bush Administration.

the past administration and this one too to think in different ways is that this enemy doesn't have territory or armed forces of any conventional kind. We're not going to win by invading it. Unlike previous wars, intelligence has a much higher premium."

To a similar question later on regarding the violations of the Geneva Conventions, Yoo said that "Al Qaeda isn't a signatory of the Geneva Convention [and] don't want to follow any of the rules of war. Why do we have to follow the rules of a treaty that the enemy doesn't want to follow themselves?"

Yoo cited Article 4 of the Geneva Convention and said that "The Geneva Convention says if they don't operate under 'responsible command', then the US can choose not to classify them as POW's under the Geneva Convention."

Another student also asked Yoo about his justifications for him personally being a part of writing the memos that authorized the torture that took place under the Bush administration.

"I do firmly believe there is an area called law and an area called policy. I wouldn't change the way I interpret [the law] in order to stop it from happening. That's a decision up to the policymakers. If you really think the government is doing something that is fundamentally immoral, you have the choice of resigning. That's the most honorable thing to do," Yoo said.

Yoo also discussed his opinions on the Bush administration.

"It really isn't until time passes that we can judge them...some

presidents go up, some presidents go down."

Near the beginning of the presentation however, two protesters entered the front of the auditorium where Yoo was speaking and stood there holding a large banner that stated "Try Yoo for Torture," apparently from the "Students Against Torture" group.

As the protesters stood, several students voiced their opinions to the crowd.

"We encourage you to sit down so Professor Yoo can finish his speech," one commenter said. His comment was followed by much applause.

"You have words that we have to look at and they convey a message to us. We didn't come here to read your message," another student said.

Another commenter added, "Stop the dramatics, at least it's not Tucker Max."

Yoo responded calmly, saying that as long as they didn't interrupt his speech, he was happy to continue.

"I believe that the inclusion of John Yoo's 2003 torture memos used to legitimize torture against prisoners at Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo is antithetical to everything the U.S. stands for. I'm proud that the organization allowed us to make our opposition heard in a mutually respectable way," said graduate student and protester Bridget Kustin.

"We want to make it clear that Hopkins is not a safe haven for [Yoo] to come, not simply because of what he thinks, but more so because he provided the material support to the administration of torture," graduate student Larry McGrant said.

McGrant also said that the protesters at the event were all graduate students, mostly from the anthropology department.

Nonetheless, Corporal John Horne, Hopkins security officer said there was "no issue" with the event or the protesters, but declined to comment further on Hopkins policy toward protests.

After the speech, Steven David, faculty advisor for FAS, commented on the actions of some protesters.

"It's very unfortunate that an invited guest has been treated so rudely. If they want to hold up a sign that's ok but in my view they had no right to hold up a banner throughout the entire course of the speech. He's warranted a certain level of courtesy," David said.

"They were perfectly within their rights to protest at our events. They were distracting, but not disruptive. We were a bit concerned about whether Professor Yoo was comfortable [and] he seemed to be ok with the presence..."

"We think it's important to foster constructive intellectual discourse on campus— both sides of any issue," said Yu-

varaj Sivalingam, one of the three Executive Directors of the FAS.

"The fact that people stood up in the middle and caused a disturbance without making a constructive point didn't really bring anything new to the discussion," Senior Jennie Choe said.

In a brief interview afterwards, Yoo commented on the protesters as well.

"They have a right to speak, as long as they weren't disruptive or violent. It would have been better if they stood off to the side, but I gave the speech I wanted and the audience asked the questions they wanted," Yoo said.

"I think first and foremost, this event speaks to the strength of FAS as an organization to be able to bring someone like Professor Yoo to campus. The organization of FAS understands how important it is to bring in controversial speakers."

"I'm glad that I could have had the limits of my own personal comforts stretched attending a lecture by someone I don't totally agree with," junior Adam Reiffen said.

"I thought he was a really good speaker and I really liked some of his viewpoints on current political issues. I was very disappointed that he didn't talk more about the torture memos. I would have liked a more clear explanation on what his views were," sophomore Kimberly Ribbons said.

Yoo also responded afterwards to some student comments that he didn't answer his questions fully.

"I thought I answered every question with excessive thoroughness. I didn't feel like I avoided or didn't answer any question. I've written extensively about that issue [torture memos] in an earlier book and newspaper op-eds," Yoo said.

"I had been surprised that he was invited as a speaker for FAS. I think everyone who came today to hear him speak was interested to hear his justifications for all the issues he's come under fire for recently. I think something he didn't address was why shouldn't the public be given more of a say in what techniques are used to defend our nation," Choe said.

When asked about his feelings on speaking at this event, Yoo responded "I thought it was great. It is great that undergraduates take the lead in organizing speakers, they have a great list of speakers, a really engaged crowd and firsthand experience on how to resolve free speech issues, which they did with a good outcome. It was a learning experience for everyone involved, including myself."

—Additional reporting by Leah Mainiero

Snowstorm cleanup could cost University over \$500,000

SNOW, FROM A1
service provider. Kilduff said that 45 facilities employees, including management, remained on campus during the storm.

"They slept on cots . . . in the rec center," he said.

Those employees remained on campus from Tuesday night through Friday morning of last week. Despite that, Kilduff said he did not hear of any complaints.

"They all know it's part of their job . . . they were all in good spirits," he said.

Aramark employees stayed at the Colonnade during the snowstorm. It is unclear how many were asked to do so. The Director of Dining Programs, David Furhman, said that the costs of providing their accommodation were paid by Aramark, but are counted among the costs "incurred in the implementation of the campus dining program." He explained that the University will eventually compensate Aramark for these costs.

When asked if it cost more to run dining facilities during the storms, Furhman replied that any additional expenses were offset by the savings from the shortened operating hours, especially because Pura Vida and the Levering Food Court were closed

for longer than a week.

The extension of the spring semester will definitely present yet another financial burden to Hopkins Campus Dining as dining facilities will have to remain open longer.

Though this cost is yet to be

computed, Furhman said that "our primary objective is to support the academic mission of the university by ensuring that food service will continue through the examination period."

O'Shea also commented on the blizzards' effects on the ongoing construction on Gilman Hall.

"The site was forced to close entirely for two days," he wrote. "There was a drop in manpower on the job on other days last week. Overall, it's fair to say the time lost is probably equivalent to three full days."

He wrote that the contractor and its subcontractors are discussing strategies to make up for the lost time.

"Through second shifts or overtime or a combination of both, we expect to recover the lost time so that faculty can reoccupy the building at the beginning of July as scheduled," he wrote.



WILL SHEPHERDSON/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The combined cost of snow cleanup for the recent blizzards could be over \$500,000.

Hopkins decides to extend classes by a week

EXTENSION FROM A1
over the week of missed classes.
"They aren't complete bystanders in this," she said.
"We'll probably have some of them concerned about the exten-

"I think we wouldn't have many options if we lost another couple of days in March. It would be pretty late to be extending it," she said.

Extending classes will cost

"I might have used discussion section times for make-up lectures — which would most definitely been far from optimal."

Marc Caplan, who is on leave

council is planning on rescheduling the events that are clashing with the updated final period.

"Because of the extension of finals from May 13 to the 16th, it shortens a lengthy senior week...it's going to be a bit more crammed rather than spaced out," he wrote.

Student Government President (SGA) President Marc Perkins said the SGA was told that the only alternative to adding an extra week of classes was canceling Spring Break.

"While we support the decision not to cancel spring break, we would have preferred to see a more creative solution (like having professors schedule weekend classes)," Perkins wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*.

During its Feb. 16 meeting, several other SGA members expressed displeasure with the decision.

"A lot of economics majors have internships already set in place. If they are late, they will lose the internship. Pass this class or stick with your job," Nick Gilson said.

"I think that if the professors have the feasibility to come in for another day, it is so much better [than adding a week]," Abby Dugan said.

"Adding days would be useless," Nick Trenton said in agreement.

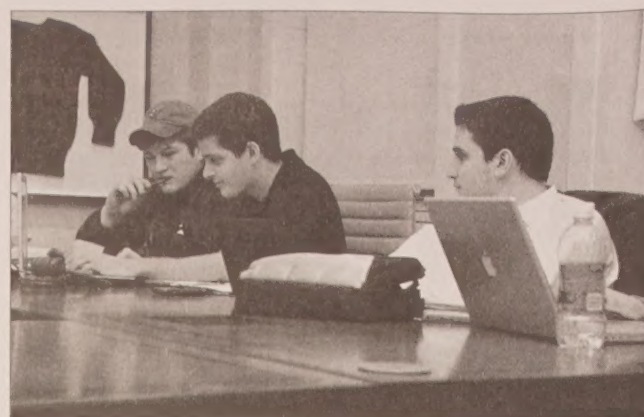
However, general student reactions were mixed.

"I really don't feel much about it. As a senior, I am going to be waiting around for graduation anyways so it doesn't cut into my plans," senior Sam Natase said.

"I have no summer plans. I didn't like how they cut reading period but it's better than having professors teach two weeks in one week," freshman Sophie Solomon said.

She did point out however that "It's probably tough for the kids who have to fly to China."

"I am not mad about the fact that they added, but how and when they added it," freshman Kayleigh Horst said.



WILL SHEPHERDSON/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The SGA wants to work more closely with the Hopkins administration on weather policies.

SGA reacts to snow policy, disregard for student reactions

By STEPHANIE DELMAN
Copy Editor

Hopkins administrators waited until 6:49 a.m. Monday, Feb. 8 before notifying students that classes would be canceled, the first in a series of decisions that upset members of the Student Government Association (SGA) last week.

Despite Governor Martin O'Malley's warnings against normally scheduled activities, and the closures of every other institution of higher education in Baltimore City and County, the University decided to remain open until administrators were informed that the JHMI shuttle service was disabled, according to the email sent out by spokesperson Dennis O'Shea.

Members of the SGA were frustrated by the unclear lines of communication between administrators and students, as well as the alleged reasons for the school's eventual closure.

"If Maryland is in an official state of emergency, it shouldn't take Hopkins until nearly 7 a.m. to cancel classes," said Nick Gilson, junior class president.

"They need to find a better way to communicate."

To this end, senior class president Affan Sheikh drafted a resolution regarding University policies with regard to inclement weather.

Sheikh said that the SGA was disappointed in the University's response to the blizzards and its subsequently unclear instructions for staff and students alike.

"[Our resolution] invites administrators to open more dia-

logue between themselves and the SGA — we want clearer policies and hopefully an eventual permanent change," he said.

According to Sheikh, students were additionally disheartened by the University's apparent disregard for the letters and complaints that piled in after the school's original decision to stay open, including a formal complaint by SGA president Marc Perkins.

"I don't think the letters had any bearing on the school's eventual decision to close. I know they have to make whatever decision they see as best, but I wish they had read our correspondence and considered what we had to say," Sheikh said.

In hopes of provoking a change in emergency rescheduling protocol, the resolution states that "the SGA would like to communicate and work with Provost [Lloyd] Minor and other university administrators to establish a clearer university policy regarding inclement weather and working towards a permanent policy."

The resolution also raises the concern that the University's eventual decision to close was of a "contradictory nature," as the JHMI shuttle continued running that day, albeit on its Saturday schedule.

"It's unclear what the administration's actual reason for closing school might have been — it was allegedly due to the disabled JHMI shuttle, but that did not prove to be the case," Sheikh said.

In the end, according to Sheikh, the SGA simply hopes for a clarified code of conduct regarding University policies.



WILL SHEPHERDSON/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The administration has decided to add a week to the semester and shorten reading period to make up for canceled classes.

sion as well but there are people who wondered what our plan would be because they felt there was educational value lost that they had spent tuition money to provide."

While they said they understood the impact their decision would have on students who already had made travel plans, Dean Falk claim they did as much as they could to minimize that effect of their decision.

"Unfortunately...we will not be in a position to reimburse students who have to change airplane tickets," Falk wrote.

Burger also pointed out that if classes had not yet been extended by a week, the administration would be in a difficult position in the event that later in the semester another snow storm forced Hopkins to close again.

According to Burger, the administration was concerned with enabling students to have the most possible time to adjust travel plans and arrange work dates with the least inconvenience.

Hopkins money, primarily due to the fact that residence halls and dining halls will be open longer and that there will be less time to prepare those facilities for summer students.

David Fuhman, Director of Dining Programs, said the cost of the extension was still unknown.

"We have yet to compute that cost; our primary objective is to support the academic mission of the institution by ensuring that food service will continue through the examination period," he wrote in an e-mail to *The News-Letter*. "We'll handle whatever additional costs are incurred."

Several professors expressed support for the decision to extend classes.

Steven Gross of the Philosophy Department wrote in an email to *The News-Letter* that the professors are in a better position with the additional week of school.

Without the week of additional class, he wrote, "It wouldn't have been the end of the world."

from the Department of German and Romance Languages, took a similar position.

"I do think that from an academic standpoint it's a good idea for everyone to add a week in compensation for the time missed in class during the blizzards," he wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*.

Student leaders' reactions were mixed on the decision to hold extra classes.

"I agree with it. I would rather extend classes for a few more days than eliminate my spring break," senior class president Affan Sheikh wrote in an e-mail to *The News-Letter*.

Sheikh said Senior Week will be affected. The senior class

While we support the decision not to cancel spring break, we would have preferred to see a more creative solution.

— MARC PERKINS,
SGA PRESIDENT

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Chinese New Year: An explosive holiday

About 20 minutes before midnight, Beijing erupted with fireworks and explosions. It was an utterly surreal and mind-blowing sight, and probably the closest I will ever be to seeing a city undergo spontaneous combustion. I was in the middle of the Chinese New Year.

While most in the U.S. associate the Chinese New Year with fireworks and dragons, the holiday reaches much deeper into the fabric of Chinese culture.

The Chinese New Year, colloquially known in China as the Spring Festival, is the longest (15 days) and most important traditional Chinese holiday. According to the Chinese calendar the winter solstice must occur in the 11th month, so the starting date of the Spring Festival falls anywhere between Jan. 21 and Feb. 20, occurring this year on Feb. 14.

In the days leading up to the New Year, entrances and door frames of businesses and homes were festooned with lanterns and couplets, and supermarkets and department stores alike were packed with shoppers preparing for the holiday.

But perhaps the most telling sign that New Year was approaching were the sporadic fireworks that could be heard throughout the city in the week leading up to Feb. 14.

From the dorm the students could randomly hear fireworks going off during the week. While it was hard to see during the day, Beijing began to sound more and more like a warzone. If I had been in Baltimore and heard similar sounds I would have been absolutely terrified. But people on the streets of Beijing do not flinch when they hear what sounds like a gunshot in the middle of the afternoon, as it is all part of the New Year celebration.

While the celebrations are similar to what occurs during the western New Year, parts of the holiday closely resemble Thanksgiving or Christmas. For me, the celebration started on Friday, the day before New Year's Eve.

After our classes let out we went with the teachers to eat a special holiday lunch before they all went home. An important parallel to Thanksgiving or Christmas is that the Chinese New Year is a very family-oriented holiday and people all over China return home to be with their families.

The color red has great meaning to the Chinese and New Years is a very red holiday. We were supposed to dress in red for our lunch, the chairs had red cushions and each student received a red envelope, called a *hong bao*, with cash inside. Red symbolizes good luck and *hong baos* are traditionally given to kids by their parents on the New Year.

Even though my *hong bao* only contained one *kuai* (worth about 17 cents), it was a warm gesture from the staff of my program.

On Saturday, which was New Year's Eve, I went to celebrate with my host family. Since most of the family goes home for the Chinese New Year, a giant feast was in order. For many, the New Year's Eve family dinner is the most important meal of the year. We had a feast with fish, pork, meat, fruit, vegetables and, of course, alcohol.

Bai jiu, Chinese white liquor, is very potent. My host-family dad was not fazed and for the duration of the meal he kept saying cheers (*gan bei*) to everyone at the table. We probably had close to six or seven shots before I could not physically drink any more. I was probably drunk after four, and my host dad was turning bright red, but it was all in good fun.

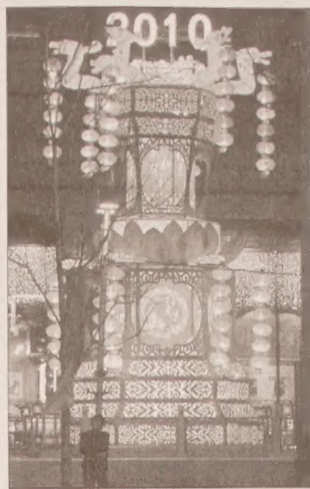
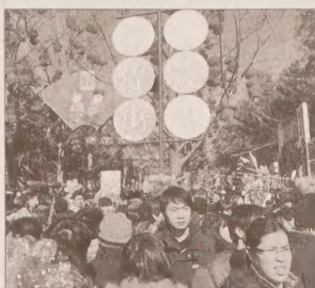
After dinner we launched our first set of fireworks for the night. On the drive from my dorm to the host family's house, my host mom had stopped at a roadside fireworks stand. Only in China could you see a dolled up 5-foot-1 woman with a fluffy pink coat, black short shorts, leggings and high boots buying 30 pounds of explosives from a sketchy roadside fireworks stand.

And these were not your average Fourth of July poppers and firecrackers. I lit a fuse on one of the boxes and ran just in time to see one firework after another shoot out of the box and thousands of feet into the sky before exploding into a cornucopia of colors. Even the 97-year-old grandmother got into the Spring Festival spirit, waving around a sparkler on the side.

At 8 p.m. we gathered around to watch the broadcast of CCTV's New Year's Gala, the Dick Clark's New Year's Eve of China. The show was a mix of sketchy comedy and variety shows, of which I admittedly understood very little, actually dozing off during the program. At 11:30 p.m. we had dumplings (*jiao zi*), a traditional Chinese New Year delicacy.

The next hour and a half were, as I described it earlier in the article, utterly surreal and mind-blowing — although there are no real adjectives that adequately illustrate the city as the New Year was approaching.

We got in the car and drove back from my host family's relatively isolated home in northeast Beijing towards our dorm in the center of the city. Fireworks were



COURTESY OF ERIC GOODMAN
Clockwise from top left: buying fireworks; celebrating the 2010 Chinese New Year; massive crowds pack the streets of Ditan Park in Beijing.

going off everywhere and anywhere. I am not sure if anything like this could ever be possible in the U.S. because of permits and pollution laws, which just made this all the more special.

As we got closer to the center of the city, the sky was illuminated with colors and hazy with smoke and ash. I sat in the back seat scared for my life as my host dad navigated around ground-to-air missiles being launched in the middle of the street.

All of Beijing was involved. Police were lighting their own fireworks on the side of the road, children were lighting fuses and the entire city was in a frenzy. I expected it to stop after 30 minutes, but the explosions kept sounding for over two hours. The streets were a disaster, littered with firework residue and red casings. Fireworks could be heard throughout the city for days afterwards.

The next few days I visited a few traditional temple fairs (*miao hui*). In the past these fairs served as a place for people to participate in religious ceremonies, buy and sell food and goods, and enjoy performances. This transformed itself into a seven-day festival in China.

The first fair I went to was at Dongyue Temple. The temple fair was small, but interesting nonetheless. Inside, people burned incense both to pray for a prosperous new year and as homage to ancestors.

Outside, most of the food stands consisted of either food on a stick or dumplings. One of the stands sold samurai swords. When the lady asked if I wanted to buy one, I explained to her about the samurai sword inci-

dent at Hopkins, which made her laugh out loud.

The next fair was at Ditan Park, one of Beijing's busiest temple fairs. Ditan was another of those experiences that is nearly indescribable. It was a mix of a county fair and farmers market, but about 15 times as dense (China is, after all, the world's most populated country). Ditan is a huge park, but packed inside were, by my estimation, over 500 different food and merchandise stands and close to half a million people.

There was almost no breathing room whatsoever, so it was no surprise to me when I got nailed in the face with what I am pretty sure was frog on a stick. Take that, Spring Fair!

It was a very festive atmosphere. Another important thing to note is that there were not as many references to the animal year as expected. This is the year of the horse, and while there were a few horse statues at the parks, the animal did not have as big an impact as I expected.

Lined along many streets were carnival-style games where you could win prizes. It was a neat experience, but I still could not get over how packed it was — I had never seen anything quite like it. Experiences like that make studying abroad completely worth it.

The Chinese New Year celebrations will last for another week and a half. Although you likely will not make it to China for the festivities, don't fret, because Washington, D.C. can help you get your Spring Festival fix.

On Sunday, Feb. 21, D.C.'s Chinatown will be holding the Chinese New Year Parade and Festival. Each year a parade is held there to celebrate the new year, featuring a dragon dance, Kung Fu and other live entertainment. It may not be authentic China, but it is a great excuse to gather in the nation's capitol to celebrate everyone's favorite second New Year!

In defense of intimacy and commitment

Why there is room for independence in a relationship

I like to consider myself a pretty independent woman. I like having my own space, my own room to come home to every night (thank you, Charles Commons) and a cell phone that I can turn off whenever I feel like retreating from life's harsh realities.

I loathe having to answer to others before going out, or being smothered by someone else's presence 24/7.

I like speaking my mind, having my opinion heard and refuted for the sake of respectful debate, and eating whatever I want, when I want.

This is the way I have been since I could snarl out the word "No!" I used to think I could not ever be in a serious relationship, because I liked my "me" time too much to let it go for another mere mortal.

And after reading my fine colleague Rip Bussey's column from last week, it sounds like he still follows this school of thought.

Here's what I've discovered though: commitment and "me" time are not mutually exclusive.

For those of you who failed to grab a copy of *The News-Letter* while heading out on your way to desperately shovel your car out of the snow last week, I will give you a quick summary of Rip's argument, regretfully leaving out some of his finer nuances.

He explains the aversion to commitment that he and the rest of the male population share as a result of a reluctance to give up their independence.

Among several examples, he cites free time and freedom of thought and speech as losses suffered by men in the battle of love.

He concludes by admitting that his gender is probably at fault for this aversion to anything that could potentially jeopardize their status as alpha dog.

Unsurprisingly, we women are still high on that list of hazards to their pride.

For the sake of respectful debate, I'd like to rebut Rip's skillful argument.

Again, I myself was not the relationship type for a good while. But it is cynical and archaic to say that entering into a relationship means saying goodbye to your individual rights.

Of course, giving a part of yourself to someone else means

some sort of sacrifice will be made.

But the scenario described above — a man stooping to appease a clingy, whiny strop who will counter his every word merely for the sake of argument — seems too dated to truly be relevant.

In a real relationship, where both parties truly care about and respect each other, there is no loss of free time.

Hopefully, you actually enjoy spending time together and thus are not "losing" free time but merely sharing it, or filling it with meaningful conversation or mind-blowing sex, whichever your preference may be.

Nor is there loss of free speech — at least there shouldn't be. If you are serious about committing to a person, you ought to make damn sure they respect what you have to say. A girl or guy who doesn't care to listen to you deserves to go.

To say that commitment necessitates a loss of free speech is, honestly, a little insulting to every committed couple out there.

I'm not saying that perfect couples do not have their disputes.

We all, both male and female, have our pride, which at some point will get the best of us. It may get ugly.

There can be times when you feel smothered, suffocated and repressed.

But in focusing on the overblown negative factors of a relationship, one runs the risk of forgetting all of the benefits of commitment, which I believe significantly outweigh anything mentioned above.

If a relationship really left so little to be desired, wouldn't we, as a species, have dropped it long ago in favor of carefree hooking up?

First, the obvious plus side: sexual release on a regular basis. It's always safer with one continuous partner, even when using protection.

Sure, you can say, "Why go for one when I can sample the whole bunch?" But remember, you can't say the same for STIs. Not quite as appealing, though.

But perhaps more importantly, having a partner means having one person who knows you differently from absolutely everybody else in the world.

If you're together long enough, this person knows you inside and out.

They have seen your darkest moments and heard your deepest secrets. They have seen you, at the height of attractiveness, and at your lowest point of ugliness.

A boyfriend will provide insight that your closest girlfriends would never even think of, and a girlfriend will comfort you without babying you like your mother might. This level of intimacy requires sacrifices, yes, but the security that comes with it should be worth all the trouble.

All this being said, we remain college students. We will hook up, make up, break up and f--- up more in these years than ever before or after.

We are not expected, or expecting, to find our soul mates within the confines of Charles Village. But to write off relationships as merely a loss of independence, especially for men, is simply encouraging a misogynistic outlook that ends up benefiting no one.

In the end, no one is forcing anyone into commitment. But those of us who do choose to believe in a deeper form of intimacy should be able to feel it is still obtainable in this unfortunate age of skepticism, without having to leave our independence in the dust.



Vivi Machi
Dirty Business

Mourning the loss of fashion maverick Alexander McQueen

The fashion world took a deep hit when it learned of Alexander McQueen's death on Feb. 11.

McQueen was born in 1969 in London to working-class parents, yet he knew from the beginning that designing clothing is what he wanted to do and he pursued that dreams like no other.

At the age of 16, McQueen picked up several apprenticeships on Savile Row, which are the world-renowned set of tailors in London known for their bespoke, made-to-measure suits.

His training there laid the groundwork for his later designs of incredibly high caliber.

McQueen went on to earn a Master's degree in fashion design from London's prestigious Central Saint Martins school and had the entirety of his graduate collection bought by influential stylist Isabella Blow, who would go on to play a huge role in McQueen's life.

From his first runway show, McQueen was different from the rest. Most simply, he did what no

one else had ever done before.

His shows were nothing short of shocking, genius and ridiculous, but they all carried thoughtful undertones and themes.

McQueen came to be known as the "enfant terrible" or "hooligan of English fashion."

His shows were spectacles on a level incomparable to anything else and no one quite knew what to expect each time.

The best way to picture a McQueen show would be to watch a Lady Gaga music video. They are pretty much the same, fire stunts included.

Lady Gaga actually wore McQueen's designs in several videos and appearances, including one in which she wore

McQueen's famous armadillo/lobster claw-like heels (watch "Bad Romance" on Youtube starting at about three-and-a-half minutes in).

On a side note, as I was watching that same video to find the heels, I realized Lady Gaga literally lives off of McQueen's work, because the similarities are just too strong to be coincidence.

McQueen's influence does

not stop at Lady Gaga, either (and since one could argue that she has been influencing pretty much everyone, maybe he did as well).

In the late '90s, McQueen let loose a collection of pants on the runway that rose so low that they revealed a lot of ass.

Naturally, the British were upset and turned up their nose, but on the streets, the "bumsters" as they were called took over the denim world and revived the low-rise jeans as we know and wear them today.

McQueen's influence lives on and on the more we look. He also brought the skull pattern to mainstream fashion — I am sure many girls can rummage through their clothes and find evidence of this as well.

To the fashion world, McQueen brought the art of tailoring — not tailoring in the sense of well-cut, sharp suits for men, but impeccably designed and handmade pieces for his women's line.

Everything he learned on Savile Row he brought to his clothing, and these elements eventually trickled down to our own streets.

He also brought the element of theatrics to fashion shows, so that a runway was not just a catwalk but a stage, a theatre for a

show and an intellectual experience.

For example, we see his influence on Thom Browne's theatrically-inclined shows.

Alexander McQueen was for fashion what snow is for Baltimore — a problem too big to be handled but a gift at the same time.

McQueen dared to be different and his philosophy represented just that.

There is little doubt that the suicide of his friend Isabella Blow and the recent death of his mother had produced an unfortunate mindset resulting in McQueen's death.

But I think everyone can agree that Alexander McQueen left this world too soon.



COURTESY OF WWW.HOTELFASHION.COM
The works of Alexander McQueen were marked by a bizarre, daring style that transformed the runway into a stage.

Got a burning question for our sex columnists? Get that checked out by a doctor, then send an e-mail to chiefs@jhnewsletter.com. You may see your answer on this page soon!

THE JOHNS HOPKINS
NEWS-LETTER
PUBLISHED SINCE 1896 BY THE STUDENTS OF THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

EDITORIALS

What Does the SGA Want?

Justifiably upset, the Student Government Association (SGA) issued a resolution on Tuesday regarding the University's inclement weather policy. The resolution comes in the wake of a weeklong break from classes due to a massive snow storm. *The News-Letter* feels that the SGA's resolution does not clearly present what it wants from the University, or what it wants in an improved inclement weather policy.

In the resolution, the SGA expresses concern about the timeliness of Hopkins decision to cancel class on Monday. But that is all we get — concern. Beyond this one point, the resolution does not possess much substance. What exactly does the SGA want?

The resolution mentions that the SGA would like to improve communication with Hopkins administrators regarding the language of the University's permanent inclement weather policy. Too bad the SGA has no real power. This is not the opinion of *The News-Letter* — this is coming directly from Hopkins. When the University decided to hold classes it was made explicitly clear that the SGA's letter to President Ronald Daniels and Provost Lloyd Minor did not affect the decision.

We at *The News-Letter* were prepared to applaud the quick response of the SGA in the face of the University's bizarre and dangerous decision to keep class open on Feb. 8. The organization voiced their dissatisfaction promptly, and urged students to contact administrators with their concerns. But now that the University has said that letters from

the SGA have no impact on its decisions, why bother issuing such a weak and vague resolution? Is the SGA not upset by this? Perhaps there is some behind-the-scenes communication we are not privileged to. But by simply issuing another sad and ambiguous letter calling for the University to make changes when it is clear they are ignored, the SGA is guilty of every weakness they have ever been accused of.

We do feel that in the event of a snow storm, the SGA should have a say in the University's decision about closing school. *The News-Letter* proposes that a committee, which includes both students and professors, have the power to communicate their concerns with Hopkins administrators and, hopefully, form a mutually agreeable decision. But, *The News-Letter* cannot fight the SGA's battles.

Their resolution is not only weak because it doesn't make the right "political" moves, but also because it is vague and ambiguous. It repeatedly mentions that the University's inclement weather policy is not clear and asks for one that is "clearer." Perhaps the SGA would like the University to establish a precise rule regarding the inches of snowfall needed for school to be canceled or a more timely cancellation? The resolution should do a better job of explaining why the current policy is unclear and what improvements need to be made in a new policy. The bottom-line is that if the SGA does not attempt to make carefully constructed arguments and resolutions, it cannot expect University administrators to take it seriously.

B-more Helpful

Newly elected Baltimore mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake has selected members of the Hopkins community to her transition committees in Education and Youth Services as well as Health and Human Services. These are two committees of great significance to the city of Baltimore. Rawlings-Blake made the correct decision in involving Hopkins' staff in her transition. But it is important that the University's support be reciprocated.

First of all, it is worth mentioning that Hopkins is helping in more ways than just the transition committees. Hopkins Hospital has partnered with the Baltimore Police Department to supplement city surveillance. This footage goes a long way in helping provide necessary information to reduce crime in the city. Financially, Hopkins provided \$10 million to help ease the city's budget deficit. This donation is a tremendous amount of money that, in itself, warrants an increase in city support of the University.

In spite of this, Hopkins has a long-standing history of community-university tensions. This collaborative opportunity has given the *The News-Letter* reason to create a list of possibilities that the new mayor can observe.

Another issue of particular importance is current noise ordinances. It seems that the present policy is to use police resources to target loud students as opposed to using those resources towards a more substantive aim like reducing actual crime. It is ridiculous that a city with such an appallingly high crime and murder rate remains fixated on

keeping students quiet on the weekends. A frank re-evaluation of noise ordinance policies is long overdue.

Hopkins Hospital is one of the most prestigious in the world; however health programs in East Baltimore seem to be fundamentally fractured. On this issue, Rawlings-Blake should seriously apply policy proposals suggested by the Hopkins community, especially since city health clinics closed down during Dixon's tenure.

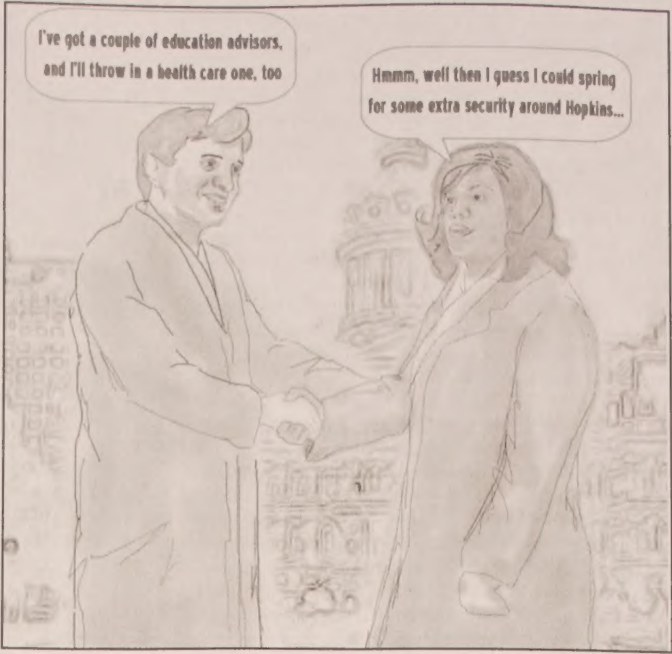
Sustainability, too, needs to become a priority for the mayor. For too long, politicians have applied myopic "green" policies with no real effects on the city. Former mayor Sheila Dixon did a great job promoting a "cleaner, greener, Baltimore." This is especially shocking given the tremendous resources Baltimore has to draw on. From researchers of world renown to sustainability majors, the mayor has all the tools needed to develop a cogent and sustainable energy policy. It is now time to act.

An issue that the newly elected mayor should take especially seriously is increasing security on East University Parkway. It is consistently one of the more dangerous locations in the area surrounding the Homewood campus, yet the city has been tragically inefficient in increasing the presence of law enforcement in the area.

The new administration must engage and support Hopkins, lest it fail to be appropriately concerned with a major and significant contributor to the community.

Oh, and please do not steal gift cards from the poor.

Anne Faber



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Response to
"Global Anti-Israeli
Sentiment
Unjustified"

Polemics, especially in a university environment, requires both a commitment to facts and an ethics of respect — two things Neil Albstein does not bother with in his op-ed dated Feb. 11.

For example, the international community has never recognized Jerusalem as the capital of Israel since Israel illegally occupies the Eastern part of the city.

This is why the United States government — and not just the *Financial Times*, as Albstein seems

to believe — considers Tel Aviv to be the capital of Israel and has its embassy there.

More generally, Albstein's claim to discuss a rise in "global anti-Israel sentiment," while passing in silence the devastation this country recently visited upon the populations of Lebanon (2006) and Gaza (2009), lacks seriousness.

There is a sordid irony in reading his praises of Israel for dispatching rescue teams to Haiti while omitting that it also forces 1.5 million caged Gazans on its doorstep to live in rubble, ill-health and abject destitution.

What's worse, Albstein adds offense to disinformation by eventually calling his peers to send a "strong message" to a Hopkins professor "through protests near her office and her

classes, or other displays of displeasure."

It is extremely troubling that *The News-Letter* would fall so low as to disgrace the name of Hopkins by welcoming in its pages a thuggish call to intimidation. *The News-Letter* clearly owes Professor Poole and the entire Hopkins community an apology, and it owes itself a review of the journalistic and ethical standards to which it should aspire.

— Sylvain Perdigon
Batimore, Md.

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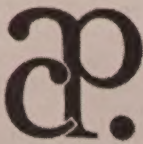
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OPINIONS

Online chat rooms a great social utility

By JAVIER AVITIA

Don't talk to strangers" is a saying your mother probably drilled into your head, along with countless other warnings that programmed you to assume the worst from the world. This of course, is probably the reason that there are thousands of cropped and subtitled pictures of old Batman comics showing a prepubescent Robin and the burly "Camp Crusader" in risqué situations that make us wonder why no one ever noticed how wrong it looked . . . ah, innocent, innocent 1960s.

But the hell with that. Some of the best times I have had while staying up all night doing nothing productive have been spent ignoring my mother's advice. I am talking about frequenting sites like *Omege.com* and *Chatroulette.com*.

Now, at this point you are either mentally high-fiving me (and thinking about all those wonderful times when you either pretended to be someone else and trolled innocent omeglers or actually had real conversations with people half-way across the globe), or you are reacting like my friends and thinking, "Talking to strangers? Hilarious!"

If you are shocked that anyone would use a website like *Omege.com*, you likely have mental images of lonely 30-year-old WOW players trying to pass as productive members of society. If you are in the latter group, then congratulations, you have the stranger-danger wariness!

These opinions are seriously misguided. Honestly, it is not that bad. Yes, you do meet the occasional 4chan-er and you do run into a lot of people just asking for cybersex, but there is this button called "disconnect" that you can click and then you can start another conversation.

And you can always open more than one tab and cycle through several conversations at a time. This usually yields at least one good conversation that will keep you entertained with random dialogues over, say, how much Country A sucks more than Country B, or how surprisingly similar college life is in other countries. One conversation partner I met from the Netherlands told me a hilarious story about how he had gotten piss drunk and ended up in a fight with some foreigners. Good times, indeed.

Javier Avitia is a sophomore material sciences engineer major from Los Angeles, Calif.

By GREG SGAMMATO

In an opinions piece published last week, editorialist Neil Albstein demonstrated exactly why the Israeli-Palestinian peace process is so damn hard. The writer stated that "surprise surprise, many of those who are most critical of Israel come from areas with anti-Semitic histories." Views like this are propagated far too often and preclude any constructive discussion between supporters of the Palestinian and Israeli causes.

If one were to accept this statement as legitimate, any criticism of Israel would be a flagrant attack on the Jewish people. Impartial negotiations — unblemished by racial or national overtones — cannot occur when one side of the argument is afraid of being labeled anti-Semitic. Case in point: Albstein's ungrounded and completely unprofessional "call to action" against faculty member Deborah Poole.

Poole has voiced her support for the U.S. Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel, a group whose self-proclaimed mission is to force Israel to abide by internationally-recognized human rights standards. While last week's article implied that this group denied Israel the right to exist, their mission statement is, in actuality, much more humanitarian in nature.

Whether or not one agrees with this campaign is a matter of personal preference, but a Hopkins professor should not be ostracized for voicing her opinion on the matter.

Even worse, the editorialist essentially incited violence against a member of the University, pleading that "anyone who believes there are two sides to any story" take to the streets and picket outside Poole's office. The side you choose, it seems, determines whether or not you have a right to be harassed at your workplace.

But let's entertain this cosmopolitan, accepting viewpoint for a moment. Last week's piece claimed that Israel has been treated unfairly and that "people like Poole would stifle the ability of Israelis . . . to tell their side of the story." I wholeheartedly agree — let's investigate their story.

Albstein begins by stating that Israel was the victim of pan-Arab aggression from its inception and that Israeli participation in the Six-Day War was merely an act of self-defense. It is very true that the Arab states of Egypt, Syria and Jordan instigated the conflict, but let's analyze the results.

Within six days, Israeli had gained

the Golan, the West Bank, Gaza and more. They had demonstrated overwhelming military superiority and solidified their place in the Middle East. Israel may be surrounded by unfriendly nations, but they face no salient existential threat. This fact is constantly being confirmed. For instance, in 2007 the Israeli Air Force (IAF) attacked a Syrian nuclear facility near Dayr al-Zur — an act of aggression that was never answered.

Moreover, a moderate Arab consensus has gained prominence in the Middle East. While Egypt may have once led the onslaught of anti-Israeli propaganda and military action, the 1979 Israeli-Egyptian Peace Treaty and subsequent agreements over issues like the Suez Canal have fostered cooperation rather than violent competition.

Israel is easily the leading power in its region, equipped with nuclear capability and superior conventional military ability. Indeed, gone is the day when Americans need to support Tel Aviv for fear of its dissolution.

Having established that Israeli is not going anywhere, we can see that a motive for self-preservation cannot be the overriding influence on foreign policy. Let's move on to their role in the peace process. Albstein boldly claims that Israel has been "continuously rebuffed" by Palestinians on the issue of peace and that they fully support a two-state solution.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's actions, though, seem to disagree. Since Barack Obama has leaned on Netanyahu to cease settlement building in the West Bank, the Israeli leader has promised an "almost-freeze" but reneged on his statement. The West Bank, and the Palestinian area in general, are shrinking as we speak. Obama has been maddeningly tame on this issue, refusing to hold Netanyahu's actions accountable.

Moreover, Prime Minister Salam Fayyad has shown that Palestinians are willing to make concessions and work with Israelis. The message of Hamas is deplorable, but there are definitely those within its organization that wish to bring about peace.

That brings us to the final attack launched against Israel, posed by U.N. Human Rights Council investigator Richard Goldstone. A veteran war

crimes prosecutor, Goldstone contends that both Hamas and Israel committed war crimes during the 2007-2008 Gaza conflict. If you ask me, this doesn't sound like "biased reporting," but what do I know?

Hamas certainly committed human rights violations, but Israel's hands are far from clean.

Impartial negotiations — unblemished by racial or national overtones — cannot occur when one side of the argument is afraid of being labeled anti-Semitic.

Let's take a look at the numbers. During a three-week campaign, Hamas fired rockets from Gaza, killing a sum total of three Israeli civilians. During the fighting, 13 Israelis and around 1,400 Pal-

estinian were killed in total. While this alone does not constitute proportional reciprocity, it gets worse — hundreds of those casualties were civilian deaths.

While Israel contends that any civilian casualties were accidental in nature, the evidence suggests otherwise. For example, Gaza's only flour mill was destroyed during the conflict.

While Israel contends that a stray tank shell inadvertently destroyed the mill, Goldstone alleges that Israeli air forces deliberately bombed this facility. When U.N. forces arrived at the mill and videotaped the wreckage, they found remains of what, according to Human Rights Watch, is an aerial bomb.

The Palestinian-Israeli issue is not black-and-white and both sides are to be held accountable. Albstein not only neglects one side of the issue completely, he does it under the pretense of supporting a bipartisan, unbiased approach. I won't tell you to picket outside his apartment, but his actions have detracted from the Arab-Israeli discussion much more than Poole's ever could.

Albstein began his article by attacking Target for leaving Israel — and not Palestine — off their globes. I personally think the world has more pertinent concerns than the omission of a country on a manufacturer's line of globes. But if it will prevent another puerile, hateful piece of garbage from being written, then come on, Target — put them on the globe.

Greg Sgammato is a sophomore economics and international studies major from Norwalk, Conn. He is Arts & Entertainment editor for The News-Letter

The secret to finding true beauty is through action

By YANG BAI

What is beauty? Recently, I was asked what beauty was and at the time I was at a loss for words. A few days later and after many failed attempts to convince myself that I had some sort of understanding of what beauty may be, I have settled on a clearer comprehension.

Beauty subsists in every creation, natural and synthetic. Its value is judged not by standards but by the reactions it induces. Its properties are limitless and transcend the petty laws defined by man through all ages.

Formally, beauty is defined as the quality present in a thing or person that gives intense pleasure or deep satisfaction to the mind, whether arising from sensory manifestations (as shape, color, sound, etc.), a meaningful design or pattern, or something else (like a personality in which high spiritual qualities are manifest).

However, beauty is much more than a gathering of qualities a thing or person possesses. Beauty is the concrete and the intangible, beauty is the balance of real and imaginary, and in particular, beauty is the process of reaching for a higher order of irreplaceable perfection that forces us to yield to our emotions.

The musician, whether classical or contemporary, is constantly struggling to find beauty in sound. Every performance is different and affects the musician differently. In essence, each time he plays, he is experimenting with the process of reaching the higher order of beauty in his music.

This experimenting is part of the beauty to which the musician succumbs. The musician cannot resist closing his eyes and involuntarily swaying with the music, feeling and absorbing it fully with each performance.

There is, in turn, a passion that is unavoidable with every piece and every note. For, each time, although the musician tries to come close to musical euphoria by pouring out his heart, this perfect understanding of music is never accomplished.

Fortunately this impossibility is beneficial to the musician and the culmination of all the small details validates the beauty of the experience itself.

Similar to music, humanity also personifies beauty with its journey of growth and uniqueness in each person. Despite deformities, flaws and disease, the intricate process of growth toward adulthood with the hopes of reproduction is biological beauty.

Through evolution and genetic experimentation, the body also changes and molds itself with the intent of becoming more apt physically and psychologically.

The accumulation of knowledge, abilities and personality throughout a lifetime is the voyage toward what we perceive to be the beauty of human perfection.

The laws of nature set no specific standards for growth but this does not stop the body from fixing imperfections and becoming smarter, more apt and more efficient throughout lifetimes and generations.

Paralleling the fact that no two musical performances are ever the same, the body cannot be imitated exactly and no two persons are ever exactly alike.

This is beauty. The pinnacle argument is that the differences from each case contribute to the beauty of the whole. Just as each musical experience helps the musician acquire more of the beauty of his art, each inimitable individual is an indispensable part of the society that he lives in, defining the beauty of what we call humanity.

Beauty is elusive to the mind, let alone words. We wish to cherish what is unable to be recreated and do cherish the experiences that we undergo. We wish to understand the intent of an artist and feel beauty in his work. We wish to change our bodies and live longer, and we wish to create a civilization remembered for its grandeur and elaborate infrastructures.

But ultimately, we strive to reach the podium from which we can look down on how far we have come and say "that is beautiful."

Yang Bai is a sophomore economics and political science major from Glen Ridge, N.J.

Neil Albstein

Administrative ineptitude and the Olympics

Broken torches, scandals, brand wars, rival nations and death: Welcome to the Olympics. Every other year, the nations of the world send either their best summer or winter athletes to some (often controversially selected) site, where they compete for medals in an assortment of events, in the name of personal and national glory.

There, in a spectacular demonstration of national pride, the host nation welcomes the athletes with as much fanfare as humanly possible.

The defining moment of all the cheesy theatrics is the arrival of the Olympic flame from Athens, where a past Olympic great lights the torch that will burn for the duration of the games, or in the case of Vancouver in 2010, a smaller, indoor replica of a larger outdoor one.

By the moment of the torch lighting of the 21st Winter Olympiad, it was clear that Murphy's Law was running the show.

An Olympian had been killed on a training run that day. When the four-pronged torch designed for the Games arose hydraulically, only three of the pieces were functional, giving the already odd-looking contraption an unbalanced and decidedly un-Olympic look. And this was only the beginning.

Several days later, the torch continues to be mishandled. The indoor version has mercifully been dismantled, but the outdoor version is fenced off, making this, the most important Olympic symbol, unavailable for the photos Olympians and guests would naturally want

with this most famous flame.

The deceased Olympian, a 21-year-old Georgian (the country, not the state) luger, is being blamed by officials for his own death, despite the fact that numerous of his fellow lugers were also crashing at various points on the track and complaining bitterly about the unusually high and dangerous speeds.

Accusations were also being leveled that the host nation, Canada, had been unfairly restrictive in terms of access to the track, which is also used for the skeleton and bobsled events, but allowed its own citizens plenty of access and time to prepare for the race. Grudgingly, two changes were made to the track.

The run was shortened, decreasing the speed of the run, and a wall that would likely have saved the Georgian's life was erected.

Bad weather has caused further trouble, as the ski and snowboard events have been plagued by rain, melting ice, hail and slushy snow. Thousands of fans have been turned away, as the conditions have made certain viewing areas unusable, even during events that were allowed to occur.

Though the International Olympic Committee (IOC) has offered refunds to those not admitted, one can imagine that those who have travelled to Vancouver for the Games are not content to have the price of the tickets back.

Most recently came the speed skating debacle. The Olympics have a contract

to use Olympia ice resurfacers, over the better-known and well-proven Zamboni ice resurfacers.

On the day of the men's 500 meter race, however, the fleet of Olympias at the arena all failed, leaving the ice in such poor condition that the race had to be delayed, prompting American speed skating star Shani Davis (himself a controversial figure for his alienation from the U.S. official skating team) to drop out of the event, which is not his forte. Eventually, a Zamboni had to be brought in from Calgary to resurface the ice.

Perhaps most annoying to many fans is the fact that NBC, which holds a contract for the television rights to the Games, continuously delays their coverage of the most exciting events until primetime, disallowing live viewing. In the days before the Internet, this was likely a good policy.



ANNE FABER/GRAPHICS EDITOR

Neil Albstein is a senior political science major from New York, N.Y. He is a member of The News-Letter editorial board.

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SPORTS

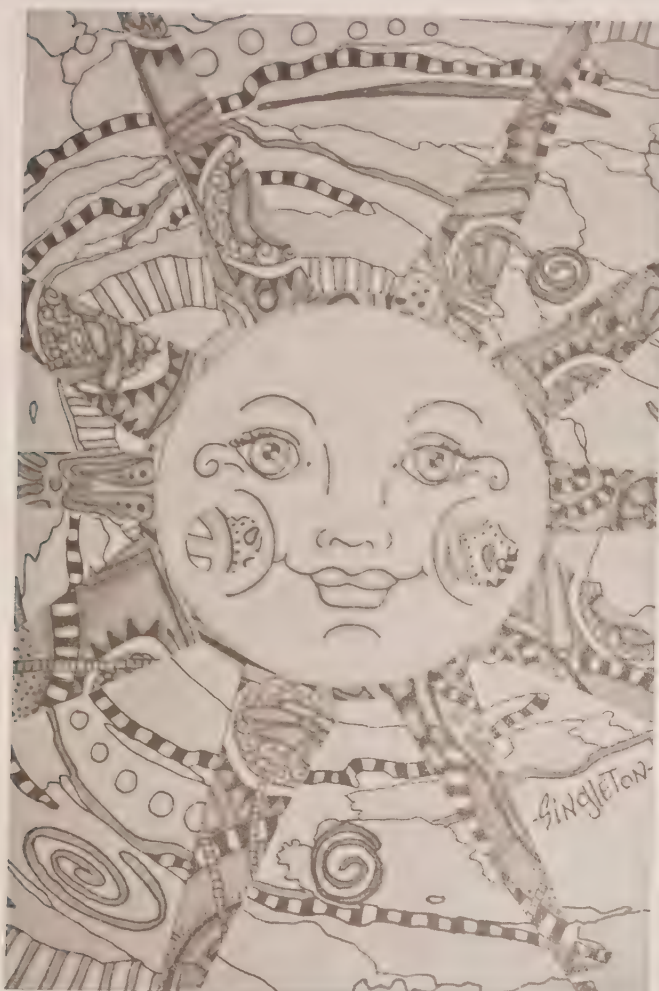
Running circles around the competition, these track stars are worth a second look, **B11**.



ARTS

Is love in the air for the movie *Valentine's Day*? Check out the review, **B4**.

YOUR WEEKEND FEB. 18 - 21



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Visionary Solstice

We here at *The News-Letter* do not condone drug use. That being said, the Visionary Solstice is happening this Saturday.

Shortly said, this event is like an acid trip in and of itself. Plus it takes place at Sonar, so you shouldn't have any trouble scoring. (Just kidding, Sonar is an upstanding establishment. Please don't sue.) So for \$30 (plus the market price of acid — I've been out of the loop too long, as exams put a stop to my tripping) you could have yourself a right good time.

The event includes live painting from the artist-couple Alex and Allyson Grey, plus a black light theatre performance. Really, I know we don't endorse doing drugs, but come on. If, however, you are a gigantic stick in the mud, or the last time you had a trip your dead grandmother came through your basement floor to tell you Mordor was un-

der attack, a strong line-up of DJs and a live performance from Ellen Cherry will be entertainment enough. Live performances include Telesma with Alex and Allison Grey, M80 Dubstation, C.I.A., SEE-I featuring members of Thievery Corporation and Archedream for Humankind.

There are also featured DJ performances by Rob Paine and Lee Mayjahs, DJ Who, Neil Kurland, Lazerbitch, Uncle Jesse, Aligning Minds and Shawn Qagent Maxfigment.

There are VIP tickets available for an extra 20 bucks, which nets you special admission to the early (7 p.m.) spoken word performance and the artist Alex Grey's talk on his recently released book *Art Psalms*, as well as exclusive stage access with bar service during his performance.

— Michael Ferrante

PAJAMA JAMMIE JAM PILLOW FIGHT

MEX'S BAR, INNER HARBOR, THURSDAY 9 P.M. TO 2 A.M. GUYS \$5, GIRLS AND GUESTS IN PAJAMAS FREE

This Thursday night, one of Baltimore's most frivolous and slap-happy traditions will return, with the fourth-annual Pajama Jammie Jam, hosted by Mex, a downtown hotspot frequented six nights a week by eager twenty-somethings.

This massive, raucous pillow fight has become a fixture of Baltimore's Inner Harbor nightlife scene over the past several years.

For this reason, it is guaranteed to attract large crowds of partiers looking to combine some old-fashioned, immature fun with a few (or many) drinks.

The Pajama Jammie Jam has become a local favorite by providing a venue for an alcohol-fueled pillow fight.

If this rare opportunity alone is not incentive enough, Mex offers extra prizes and gimmicks to make the night all the more festive.

The restaurant, which offers Mexican cuisine and a lively atmosphere for the affordable price of around \$9-15, opens the event at 9 p.m., with a fully-stocked bar for the occasion.

Women and anyone wearing pajamas get in for free (normally-clad men must cough up \$5), with a prize of a \$100 bar tab and

a championship belt awaiting the victor.

All participants will be treated to \$3 red-headed sluts (the beverage that is — according to *UrbanDictionary.com*, it is made of: 1 part jagermeister, 1 part peach snaps and cranberry juice). The pajama-wearing crowd can get all drinks for half-price for the entire night.

The event runs from 9 p.m. until 2 a.m. (closing time), and is intended for a 21-and-over, fun-loving clientele.

Mex is located right in the Inner Harbor at 26 Market Place and has easy access to several forms of public transportation.

So, if you enjoy drunkenly bashing other pajama-clad revelers over the head with a pillow, all in the middle of a Mexican restaurant's open bar — and who could possibly turn down such an experience — be sure to make your way down to Mex this Thursday, Feb. 18, for the 2010 Pajama Jammie Jam.

— Alex Still



ANNE FABER / GRAPHICS EDITOR

SATURDAY FOR HAITI

Saturday could be a day of recuperation or afternoon adventures. Saturday could also be a day to hit the gym or dance all night long. This Saturday you can do all these activities while helping the people of Haiti.

Organized by The JHU Haiti Aid Coalition, Saturday for Haiti will feature many opportunities to donate money to help aid and rebuild the island nation after the devastating earthquake in January.

The day starts with a pancake breakfast at 10 a.m. at Nolan's. Entry cost is \$5.

Next, shake off that hearty breakfast with a Haitian dance class or a relaxing yoga session. The dancing starts at 2 p.m. in the Evans East room, with yoga following immediately after. Both cost \$5.

If hip-popping and downward dog aren't your thing, there's a three-on-three basketball tourna-

ment from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. Team registration starts at 4 p.m. and the registration fee is \$15. The winning teams will play in a championship round in March.

After all that exercise, it's time for a night of live student entertainment and international cuisine. Various multicultural associations will have tasty ethnic food to satisfy your inner gourmand. Admission is \$5. Performances start at 7 p.m. in the Charles Commons Ballroom, with a live DJ and band.

Donations will be split between Partners in Health and the Center for Refugee and Disaster Response at the Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Sunday morning promises a better-fed, more toned, tired-from-dancing student body, and a brighter future for the people of Haiti.

— Stephanie Mezyk

GRÜNDELHÄMMER ROCK OPERA

Alright, gents, here's a chance for you to be "cultured" in front of your lady friend. You are going to an opera of the highest quality.

The Baltimore Rock Opera Society is performing their now world-famous rock opera, *Gründelhämmer*.

I know it sounds ridiculous, because it is: ridiculously awesome.

Here's the story: Bad dude Lothario is doing bad stuff in the mythical land of Brotopia. Some kid is young and talented and can shred on the guitar.

He needs to avenge his parents, who were killed or something by Lothario.

To do this he needs the mythical and righteous ax forged by the gods — Gründelhämmer!

Yes, it is cheesy. However, this is like brie or some other high cultured cheese, because it's also an opera.

If you are looking for a good time that is a little out of the ordinary, this is my suggestion for this week.

For \$12 you can get your face melted at this kickass rock opera on either Feb. 19 at 7 p.m. or Feb. 21 at 5 p.m. The theatre is located at 2640 St. Paul St.

— Michael Ferrante

HOP

Senior Class Happy Hour

Thursday, 9 p.m. - 11 p.m.

PJ's Pub

The Class of 2010 can enjoy a complimentary drink thanks to Seniors for the Hopkins Fund Committee. \$2 rails and \$2 Keystone/Miller Lite specials.

Throat Culture Open Mic Comedy Night

Saturday, 9 p.m. to 12 a.m.

Nolan's

Hopkins's only sketch comedy group presents their own acts, plus those of the finalists from the DC Improv Funniest College Competition.

JHU Gospel Jubilee/Haiti Relief Concert

Saturday, 6 - 8 p.m.

Performances by the JHU Gospel Choir and others to benefit Haiti Relief. Tickets are \$3 for students, \$5 for non-students.

Engineers Trivia Night

Thursday, 9:30 - 11:30 p.m.

Nolan's

Join the Hopkins Undergraduate Engineering Society for a fun night of engineering and other-subject related trivia! This event is part of Nolan's Weekly Pub Night.

Snails and Trails: Getting Around the Federal Period

Thursday, 4:30 - 6 p.m.

Homewood Museum

The first talk in a four-part series, this exhibit is presented at Homewood Museum as part of its fourth annual student-curated art show.



COURTESY OF WWW.ALGERIA.COM

Unraveling the Mystery: A Panel Discussion on the Hijab

Thursday 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Charles Commons Ballroom B Presenting Professor Niloo-far Haeri has done research for many years on different cultures' modesty in clothing, specifically the burka and the hijab.

Multicultural Greek Block Show

Friday, 7 - 9 p.m.

Glass Pavilion

A night of music and step dancing from several east coast collegiate fraternities and sororities.

MUSIC STAGE

Dan Deacon

Friday, 8 p.m.

Ottobar

The king of Baltimore electro pop comes to town.

Itzhak Perlman

Thursday, Saturday, 8 p.m.

Sunday, 3 p.m.

Meyerhoff Symphony Hall

One of the pre-eminent violin virtuosos of our time performs.

This Time Next Year

Thursday, 5 p.m.

Sonar

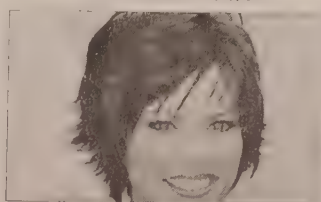
See a mix of acts tear it up on the club stage for only \$10 if you pay in advance (\$12 at the door).

Get ready to find your new favorite band as for The Kindness of Strangers, Better With Our You, This Is Our Fight and Little Foot take to the stage.

Martina McBride

Saturday, 7:30 p.m.

First Mariner Arena



COURTESY OF WWW.NNDB.COM

The popular country star performs her new album Shine.

Playing Dead

Thursday, Friday, Saturday, 7:30 p.m.

Single Carrot Theatre

Check out this play about a 30-year-old college dropout with a fierce resistance to real work.



COURTESY OF VCCULTURALCENTER.COM

Transformations

Thursday, Friday, Saturday, 7:30 p.m.

A retelling of the Brothers Grimm's Hansel and Gretel.

Gas Light

Friday, Saturday 8 p.m.

Sunday, 2 p.m.

Audrey Herman Spotlighters Theatre A psychological thriller set in Victorian England, this play is one of the longest-running in Broadway history. It was made into an Academy Award-winning film starring Ingrid Bergman.

The Lacy Project

Friday, Saturday 8 p.m.

Sunday, 2 p.m.

Strand Theatre Company A young woman struggles to reconcile her own reality with her mother's photographs.

ART

Nostalgia

Saturday, Sunday, 12 - 5 p.m.

Jordan Faye Contemporary

Works by Baltimore photographer Paula Gately Tillman, D.C. painter Treva Elwood and mixed media artist Alexander Dijulio.

Project 20: An Exhibit in 4 Parts

Contemporary Museum

Three artists and collaborators create installation art that invite viewers to participate by contributing to the work.



COURTESY OF CELEBRITYWONDER.COM

Curious George: Let's Get Curious

Port Discovery

Exhibit takes visitors inside the world of Curious George and The Man in the Yellow Hat.

GPS Adventures

Museum Hours

Maryland Science Center

Visitors travel through a 4,500-square-foot maze while learning about the history and future of navigation with more than 20 activities.

BARS

Paul Mercurio

Thursday, 8 p.m.

Friday, 8 p.m., 10 p.m.

Saturday, 12 a.m., 7 p.m.

9 p.m., 11 p.m.

Comedy Factory

Former writer for the hit program *The Daily Show* performs stand-up.

Lock and Key Singles Party

Friday, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Stalking Horse

Women get locks and guys get keys. The goal is to match the right lock with the right key. Couples that succeed in finding each other get a ticket to be entered in a prize drawing.

Boomerang Nightlife Party Bus Tour

Friday and Saturday, 8:30 p.m. to 2:00 a.m.

Tours begin at the Pratt Street Ale House, where, after socializing with your fellow bus riders, you and your friends can cruise through Charm City. Get a taste of all the local bars and clubs while riding in style in the giant refurbished school bus.

Interested in having your event featured on our online calendar or covered in Your Weekend? E-mail chiefs@jhunewsletter.com.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

JHUT's dark comedy brings down the House

By **KELSEY MILLER**
Copy Editor

This past weekend Johns Hopkins University Theatre presented *The House of Blue Leaves*, a dark comedy by John Gauré.

The show, directed by Peg Denithorne, brought a talented cast and production crew together in the Merrick Barn.

The evening began with Artie Shaudghnessy, portrayed by senior Kempton Baldrige, playing a few jaunty piano pieces at "Amateur Hour," and although the imaginary audience does not pay attention to what is meant to be the character's mediocre performance, this sets up the musical themes that recur throughout the show.

After an introduction by John Astin, the first act opened again in the Shaudghnessy apartment with Artie asleep on the couch. An army man who will later turn out to be Artie's son Ronnie, played by sophomore Danny Kaplan, sneaks in through the window and then runs off the stage, as though to another room of the apartment.

Artie finally wakes up when his girlfriend, Bunny Flingus, played by senior Marisa Del Campo, knocks frantically on the door. She is in a hurry to get Artie out of the apartment, as the Pope is coming to New York City that morning and she wants to watch the parade.

The conversation between this couple centers around the Pope and the blessings they hope he will bestow on Artie's music career and their engagement. There is also a funny sequence where Artie tries to convince Bunny, through song, that she should cook for him. The dynamic between these two is snappy and natural.

Then a disheveled woman in bathrobe, Artie's current wife "Bananas," played by senior Emily Daly, comes out of the back. It soon becomes clear that Bananas is mentally ill.

When she gets paranoid and loud, Artie makes her take a pill, which she resents but accepts while pouting like a child. Bananas even begs like an animal for her food. Daly's portrayal of Bananas was consistent, and she did not exaggerate the illness unnecessarily but rather used the character's tics and frustrations to make Bananas convincing.



Crazy and complex characters expertly deliver humor in JHUT's production of the dark comedy, *The House of Blue Leaves*.

Much of the first act is spent explaining the characters' histories and developing Artie's dream of moving to California and becoming famous, using his connection with his producer friend Billy, played by senior Neil Albstein who is also part of *The News-Letter's* editorial board. The plot also introduces Artie's plan to put Bananas in a mental institution.

Baldrige's performance as Artie was at times hard to read. As far as Artie's career and talent goes, the character is meant to be pathetic.

But when he becomes sentimental with Bananas, treating her kindly and saying that he misses her, it is hard to reconcile with the moments where he force-feeds her medicine or is comically oblivious to his friend Billy's suffering. Overall, Baldrige manages to make Artie engaging, but not always quite believable.

Overall, the first act was not as entertaining as the second, but Del Campo's performance helped keep it from floundering at times. She handled her character (and accent) with panache, and her comedic asides to the audience were right-on.

The second act begins with the Shaudghnessys' son Ronnie,

alone in the kitchen, constructing a bomb while bitterly recounting a story from his childhood. His plan is to blow up the Pope under the guise of being an altar boy, in order to become famous as a payback for past injustices. Kaplan's monologue is effective and makes it clearer that this is meant to be a dark comedy.

During the second act, the play becomes much more humorous and chaotic. A friend of Billy, the actress Corinna Stroller, played by junior Kristina Madarang, comes to visit the apartment and because she is secretly deaf, she can't hear Bunny's incessant conversation or Artie's mediocre songs.

While a predictable comedic device, Madarang manages to still make her character a lively part of the scene.

The second act also introduces three nuns, a uneringly comedic team played in various performances by a combination of junior Kelly McNamara, junior Sarah Abaza, senior Nikeya Thomas and sophomore Grace Yeon. These nuns had been up on the roof watching the Pope and now proceed to invade the apartment.

With the influx of characters, the action gets more complicated. At one point two nurses

(sophomore Jennifer Walton and freshman Lyndsey Starks) even come to take away Bananas, and an MP (junior Pierce Delahunt) comes to arrest Ronnie for being AWOL.

All at the same time, the nurses, the nuns, the family and an MP are all in the room, chasing each other around. Then some of them run out the door and Ronnie's bomb goes off in the hallway, killing several of the characters.

The rest of the show involves more of Billy's character, and Bunny singing a whole verse of one of Artie's songs for Billy, which is a treat for the audience as well, as Del Campo is a voice performance major at Peabody. At the end, Artie and Bananas are alone once more in the apartment and they end the play in its darkest, but perhaps most inevitable moment.

As a whole, Denithorne's directing throughout the play seemed to be about managing the chaos and letting the strength of the characters come through, rather than creating particularly emotive moments.

The result is that the JHUT production of *The House of Blue Leaves* is at times emotionally unclear, but overall comedic, and good absurd, dark fun.

Happy Tears portrays bizarre family bonding

By **ALEXANDRA BYER**
For *The News-Letter*

A dysfunctional family is a good place to start for a movie. But how far can dysfunctional go before it turns into simply crude? Mitchell Lichtenstein's new film, *Happy Tears* advertises itself as a film about familial love and homecoming. The movie is instead more about coping and accepting family secrets and diseases.

Happy Tears trails two sisters, Jayne and Laura (Parker Posey and Demi Moore, respectively), who return to their Pittsburgh home to take care of their father, Joe (Rip Torn), whose health and mental stability are quickly deteriorating.

Jayne is uptight, naïve and married to a wealthy artist's son who has a plethora of his own problems. Laura is a hippie type with a few children and a European husband whose sexuality is questionable. Joe is an old man, who has lived a long, morally-questionable life, and wants to finish out his days in his own way.

Unfortunately, this includes living with a new "lady friend,"

Shelly (Ellen Barkin), a dirty crack head. The homecoming is a complete mash up of emotions, secrets and personal insecurities that all surface in only 95 minutes.

The film forces the audience to witness a lot of unpleasant things — scenarios that are much more disagreeable than the typical plot of daughters dealing with their elderly father. This is not a sweet and nostalgic family drama. *Happy Tears* is slightly

deranged and more than a little unrefined. Viewers will cringe.

Ever had the desire to see someone who has defecated himself be washed? If not, then don't see *Happy Tears*.

This is just one of the many

troublesome scenes that leaves audiences audibly disagreeing with what they're seeing. Just wait until you see a grimy drug addict eat chicken. But hiding somewhere within this repulsiveness is a lesson about everyone's own craziness and humanity.

Each character is crazy in his or her own way. One believes that there is gold in his backyard. Another escapes reality by reverting into her own dream

SEE *HAPPY TEARS*, PAGE B5

HAPPY TEARS

Starring: Demi Moore, Parker Posey, Ellen Barkin
Director: Mitchell Lichtenstein
Run Time: 95 min.
Rating: R
Playing at: The Charles Theatre



COURTESY OF WWW.ALLMOVIEPHOTO.COM.
Demi Moore and Parker Posey play sisters in an unstable family in *Happy Tears*.



ELAINE YU/PHOTO EDITOR

The International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella quarterfinals brought singing talent to the Homewood campus.

ICCA competition brings music to JHU

By **CHARLES DUYK**
For *The News-Letter*

Music fans from miles around gathered in Shriver Auditorium on Saturday as Hopkins played host to the International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella (ICCA) Quarter Finals.

A Cappella, Italian for "from the choir," is the art of creating music completely without accompaniment. In the past, this has been called "doo-wop" or "barbershop" singing, but no longer — modern a cappella seeks to replicate a whole range of music, from Gnarl's Barkley's "Smiley Faces" to Justin Timberlake's synth-driven "Sexy-Back."

Singers utilize different vowels and clever vocal tricks to sound like electric guitars, bass-

es, synthesizers and percussion instruments.

Groups also make subtle changes to the originals, such as adding lyrics to background lines, and often add funny choreography to further entertain their audiences. These factors make modern a cappella a very different animal from its doo-wop predecessors.

Performers from as far away as Virginia Tech came together on Saturday to participate in the timed competition.

Each group was given 12 minutes to perform a set of their choosing and each was judged by members of the ICCA staff on vocal performance and visual presentation, as well as the subjective measure of quality.

Notable performances of the evening included those by

University of Delaware's Vocal Point, JHU's Octopodes and Georgetown University's Phantoms.

The Octopodes dazzled the audience with far and away the best choreography of the show. This was coupled with some solid singing, but they were unfortunately kept from advancing due to uninspired arrangements and fuzzy diction in some of their solos, causing the listener to lose track of the lyrics.

Salisbury University's Squakapella also stood out for innovative choreography, emulating a radio tuning in to various stations throughout their set, complete with interludes and medleys.

These interludes were obviously the best rehearsed

SEE *ICCA*, PAGE B4

Bioshock 2 certainly lives up to the hype

By **GREG SGAMMATO**
Arts & Entertainment Editor

As you walk down a dimly-lit corridor, the hallway stinks of rust and seaweed. Walls creak and murmur. In the distance you can hear screams of rage and lust. Out the windows, the sea stretches on endlessly, the fluorescent colors of marine life faintly reflecting the distant sun.

As you round the corner, an emaciated, bloodied woman appears from a hidden door.

Foaming and clawing at the walls, she begins to sprint towards you. Your only defenses: a handheld drill and genetic "plasmids" that let you wield the powers of the elements. Either you're lost in East Baltimore or you're playing *Bioshock 2*.

This long-anticipated sequel returns players to the world of Rapture, an underwater metropolis built by industrialist Andrew Ryan. Set in the 1950s, Ryan's city was designed in accordance with the tenets of capitalism: the supremacy of the individual and the unlimited possibilities afforded by one's potential.

The creation of ADAM — genetic material that endows its users with special and danger-

ous powers — led to the eventual downfall of Ryan's city. A city of dreams quickly became one of murderers, rapists and ADAM addicts, called "splicers." As the city fell into chaos, even children became hooked on ADAM.

Nicknamed "Little Sisters," young girls began roaming the city, extracting ADAM from splicers and consuming it. To protect Little Sisters, humans were irreversibly grafted into large faux-diving suits and brainwashed into soulless bodyguards. These automations are aptly named "Big Daddies" and are familiar to anyone who has ever seen an ad for this game.

In the original, gamers played as a man who crash-landed on an island and stumbled across the marine dystopia. After the protagonist defeated Ryan, though, the city was thrown into even greater disrepair.

Ten years and thousands of lives later, *Bioshock 2* places gamers behind the helmet of the very first Big Daddy, named Project Delta.

The world of Rapture has changed greatly over the last decade. The death of Ryan left a huge power vacuum in the city and a new leader — in the form

of Sofia Lamb — has attempted to seize power.

While Ryan maintained a very individualistic philosophy, Lamb has consolidated her power through collective action and the force of the community. As the story progresses, players encounter Marxist-like propaganda and socialist dogmas throughout Rapture.

In terms of the plotline, this game's story is similar to that of the first. Both narratives feature a protagonist attempting to discover his true identity in the face of a vindictive political leader.

Various members of the Rapture community aid you in your journey via radio messages. As Project Delta explores Rapture, he is faced with defeating assorted bosses and figuring out how they fit in the grand picture of the city. Without giving anything away, this sequel's campaign will not disappoint fans of the first game's story.

In the way of game play, many elements remain intact. As the game progresses, Delta discovers more weapons and genetic plasmids that allow his repertoire of abilities to constantly increase.

Again, players are faced with the choice of either harvesting Little Sisters to gain more ADAM in the short-term, or rescuing them. While choosing the altruistic route won't reward players immediately, they find that karma does indeed exist in *Bioshock 2*. For fans of epic Big Daddy battles, this sequel will bring them back in full fashion.

SEE *BIOSHOCK*, PAGE B5

| |
|-----------------------------|
| TITLE |
| Bioshock 2 |
| GENRE |
| First-Person Shooter |
| PUBLISHER |
| 2K Games |
| RELEASE DATE |
| Feb. 9, 2010 |
| RATING |
| M |

ICCA a capella show impresses

FROM ICCA, B3

portions of their set — the actual songs lacked polish and the background vocals were unbalanced and tended to be sharp. The group that stole the show was the Georgetown Phantoms, who beat every other group in terms of balance and tone. Opening with a remix of Lady Gaga's "Bad Romance" as a vocal ballad, the Phantoms set the bar for the rest of the competition.

Their original arrangement and entertaining choreography instantly sent the audience into an approving roar.

As it turns out, this bar would not be met throughout the rest of the night, although other groups made a respectable effort.

Their other arrangements were not the most complicated out of everyone's, but they made up for it by having some of the best soloists of the evening, including the winner of the Best Solo award, Caitlin Casside, for her complete success "Summertime."

After the competitors had finished their sets, Hopkins' own Allnighters and Vocal Chords took to the stage to give the judges time to render their verdict.

The Allnighters had very good soloists and their arrangements featured some tricky and interesting chords. The Vocal Chords showed impressive musicality and ornamentation, as well as a good blend in the background vocals.

Both groups offered solid performances in their own rights, certainly sufficient to compete in the competition next year.

Surprisingly, it was University of Maryland's Pandemonium who took first with 389 points, despite pitchy vocals and a lack of dynamic contrast in their song selection.

The Phantoms came in second with 360 points, followed closely by the Octopodes, who took third runner-up with 349 points and an award for Best Choreography.

With the exception of the first-place winner, the a capella groups received the awards that they deserved.

Pandemonium and the Phantoms will take part in the ICCA regional semifinals at University of North Carolina-Greensboro on March 13. They will compete against winners from the other quarterfinals at Florida State University, University of Georgia and Clemson University.

Valentine's Day A-list cast sure to steal viewers' hearts

By CHRISTINA WARNER
Arts & Entertainment Editor

While it certainly does not win any bonus points for being named after the holiday that fell a mere two days after its release date, *Valentine's Day* does deserve praise for being one of the most worthwhile romantic comedies to be released as of late.

Much in the vein of 2003's adorable *Love Actually*, *Valentine's Day* is an ensemble piece of A- and B-list actors that attempts to depict the nuances of love through a portrayal of various relationships.

Regardless of age, gender and sexual orientation, director Garry Marshall includes it all. The film runs the gamut in the types of love that it features, be it puppy, passionate, illicit or familial. With such variety, it is understandable that all viewers will be able to find that swoon-worthy moment which all chick flicks hope to achieve.

As the film jumps from character to character, the viewers can slowly piece together how each of the narrative threads connect to one another, creating a "six degrees of separation" effect. Among the various story-lines, however, there are a few that take up the majority of the screen time.

In a shockingly un-ridiculous role, Ashton Kutcher plays Reed, whose proposal to his girlfriend (Jessica Alba) opens the film. The overly romantic moment, however,



Busy florist Ashton Kutcher shares the love with his best friend (Jennifer Garner) in the romantic comedy, *Valentine's Day*.

should not be taken to represent the movie in its entirety. For a movie about the most romantic day of the year, it also examines heart-break and loss in such a way as to temper the romantic scenes.

Reed's job as a florist allows him to cross paths with various other characters looking to buy gifts for their significant others (in one case, for the wife and the mistress).

While Reed's Valentine's Day signifies the day his girlfriend will or will not agree to become his wife, it also elicits a variety of emotions from other characters. For PR agent Kara (Jessica Biel), it is the day of her annual "Anti-Valentine's Day Party" — an event to which no one has RSVP'd via her e-vite.

Biel is a convincingly jaded Los Angeles woman and while many aspects of her character are a bit cliché, her portrayal of them is not. Sportscaster Kelvin (Jamie Foxx) mirrors Kara's dislike of the holiday and, unsurprisingly, the two bond over this.

Another of the focus characters of the film is Julia (Jennifer Garner), best friend to both Kara and Reed, and an entirely believable elementary school

teacher. Julia is lovestruck by her budding relationship with Dr. Harrison Copeland (Patrick Dempsey).

Joining Dempsey as another *Grey's Anatomy* representative is Eric Dane who plays a "will he or won't he retire" football star. The sinfully attractive Dane proves he is not just eye candy as his story ends up being one of the most emotive of them all.

The most hilarious relationship is that between Liz (Anne Hathaway) and Jason (Tophers Grace), as motorcycle-riding Liz is the perfect yin to Jason's rule-following yang. However, when it is revealed that Liz moonlights as a phone sex operator, the future of their new relationship seems uncertain.

Hathaway's Russian accent

during her kinky and slightly BDSM conversation is hysterical and her encounters with her boss (Queen Latifah) only add to the humor.

Grammy-winner and teen sensation Taylor Swift makes her acting debut as a "crazy in love" teen who loves her boyfriend (*Twilight's* Taylor Lautner) almost as much as she loves to show off her dance moves. Swift's over-the-top behavior is appropriately nauseating and gives a nod to "those girls" that we all knew back in high school.

Rounding out the central characters are Holden (Bradley Cooper) and Captain Kate Hazeltine (Julia Roberts) who are seated next to each other on a cross-country flight to Los Angeles. While these two have among the lowest actually screen time, this vies for the most romantic story of the group.

The rest of the cast, whose stories share just as much focus as those listed above, include Kathy Bates, George Lopez, Hector Elizondo, Emma Roberts (Julia Roberts' niece) and Shirley MacLaine.

As an ensemble, the group is great — each of the couples complements each other nicely and the interweaving of the stories makes the narrative interesting to follow.

While seeing this film in theaters on Valentine's Day was nauseating, the romance level of this film was not. If sappy, love-soaked flicks are more your speed, *Dear John* might be the best choice. For a perfect blend of the lovey-dovey and sweetly sentimental, though, *Valentine's Day* is the film to see.

Don't expect the boyfriend to go without complaints, but there is enough eye candy and laughs to entertain even the most reluctant chick-flick goer.

VALENTINE'S DAY

Starring: Jessica Biel, Jennifer Garner, Ashton Kutcher
Director: Garry Marshall
Run Time: 117 min.
Rating: PG-13
Playing at: Landmark Harbor East, AMC Towson, AMC White Marsh

Movie composer Atticus Ross makes d'eli'ghtful music

By YANG BAI
Staff Writer

It is often said that a film is only as good as its music. The growing success of English composer Atticus Ross, who has recently gained attention for his scoring of *The Book of Eli*, can attest to this fact.

Ross was involved in remixing, record producing, and programming for the film. *The Book of Eli* was his first major film scoring and despite his lack of experience in the Hollywood industry, he has proven that he can compete with the best movie composers.

An interview with Ross reveals some of the motivations and insights surrounding his most recent work in music and the film industry.

The News-Letter (N-L): You've been in a few bands in the past. What kind of music did you play and did you carry any of that with you when composing the score for this movie?

Atticus Ross (AR): There was one main band I was in called 12 Rounds With My Wife. It was real atmospheric music and I didn't really carry that band itself

into the movie but it was a good place to step from [before] going into the movie.

The thing is, film was some-

thing I had wanted to try after getting into the music business but I didn't have a burning desire, if you will. It was just something that came along and after I went with it, I found a real connection.

People put music in boxes lots of times and just because I can do a certain style doesn't mean I'm going to take it everywhere I go.

I've done all kinds of music, and music is music, you don't have to put everything into one

category and always use that.

N-L: A lot of the music relates well to the imagery of desolation, bewilderment and anguished emptiness. What thinking process do you undertake to come up with such scene-appropriate tracks?

AR: Before writing my music based on the movie, I had some central themes and ideas to begin with. I spent a lot of time before the filming with the director.

We'd put together very different things. [For example] they had a flip book that had a lot of imagery, photos, scripts and quotes, and they all kind of evoked the world which they

wanted to inhabit. After I was able to understand the world of the movie it was sort of my job to find the musical companion for it.

I like to write to the script, because it's the first idea that matters the most and from a creative point of view, I wanted to have my own music ready before being introduced to the scenery so I could keep my originality. I would have approached any situation in the same way.

I had a vague idea of how the music would go and by keeping a mood [consistent with] my original score, it was a tweaking of fitting what I already had to the film.

N-L: As a composer do you have to watch a film many times before you write the score, or can you just dive in?

AR: It's not like they give you a finished film. They do a shoot, and they come back, so basically you're working alongside them. That was the thing I found difficult — you spend ages getting a

scene right, and sometimes it just gets creepy weird at the last minute, and it doesn't make musical sense.

When you're making a record, the point is to make the best record possible. When you're making a film, the music is for a greater cause.

N-L: What sort of environment helps you compose? Do you have to be somewhere specific? Is your process similar to watching the film, pausing, thinking and composing?

AR: I run the film on the computer. I'm in some studio or somewhere — it is what it is. I also have a studio in my house. It really isn't fancy-designed, but

it's my favorite place to work. I don't want to feel like there's a clock ticking or a band waiting for me.

A lot of people now are into working in professional and time-pressured environments. Even the bigger bands have their own

studios and that may be the only place they'll work. I like what I have — it's just inspiring and relaxing.

N-L: If there was one message you wanted to convey through *The Book of Eli's* soundtrack, what would it be?

AR: I wanted to convey... not a specific thing, but somebody's spiritual journey. I wanted to say something about that journey, sending him off in a good and peaceful way. The last piece is the one that does this and has the most purpose, and is probably the most human.

Atticus Ross currently writes with his wife Claudia and brother Leopold Ross. All three are credited for working on the soundtrack for The Book of Eli.

Nolan's comedy show proves Hopkins can laugh

By OMAR QUERISHI
Opinions Editor

Hopkins is known for a lot of things, and an entertaining way to spend a weekday evening is most certainly not one of them. Naturally, when I heard there was a comedy show this past Tuesday night at Nolan's, I was quite surprised. Realizing that

Hopkins' students have a tendency to be relatively antisocial, the organizer of the event, Sean Ostro, cleverly gave away free food.

As I arrived that night, I discovered a rather large turnout. The event — or the free food — clearly piqued the interest of quite a few students. At around 9:15 p.m., the show began.

Senior Gordon Mack served as the emcee for the evening. He began the show with a mini-routine of his own. Mack was interesting enough, but his material seemed uninspired. The root of his problem: poor comedic timing. I levy part of the blame on the crowd, as it had not yet decided to settle down to enjoy the show. In spite of these problems, Mack was still able to get a chuckle or two from the audience.

Unfortunately, the next two comics, Alex Hoogland and Berniss Griffin, did nothing to liven up the show. Both suffered from extremely poor delivery and worse material. The crowd became noticeably disinterested at this point. It seemed that the only things keeping the crowd in their seats were the free nachos and quesadillas.

Certain that the night would continue as boringly as it began, I braced myself for an excruciating hour of quasi-comedy.

Luckily, I was dead wrong. Biochemistry graduate student Rajiv Mallipudi needed no momentum to get the crowd going. His raw confidence rubbed off on the crowd, creating a great comedic atmosphere. Compared with all

the other comics, he was very prepared. Whether pretending to be timid and foreign or loud and obnoxious, Mallipudi was believable, and, more importantly, funny.

The best, as it turned out, was yet to come. Sophomore Luke Sand seemed well-known to a good portion of the crowd. Soon enough, I could see why. Sand performed a pertinent set, touching on issues like dorm life, the blizzard and sex. He had the most natural stage presence of all the comedians and this translated to excellent comedic timing and performance continuity. Sand has great talent on stage and is by all accounts worth seeing.

What started out abysmally became a very funny showcase of comedic talent on campus. For the first time in a long time, an event at Nolan's served as a worthwhile entertainment break.

For those who missed this week's show, there is another opportunity for comedic entertainment coming up next week. Nolan's will be bringing in professional comedian Ryan Conner on Tuesday, Feb. 23. Luke Sand will be opening the show and there will again be free food.



COURTESY

The comedy show at Nolan's displayed a surprising degree of humor and comedic charm.



COURTESY OF WWW.LMG0.LIVEINTERNET.RU
Music composer Atticus Ross is shown here in the studio with members of his band Tapeworm.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Mass Effect 2 redefines what it means to be epic

By **LOGAN QUINN**
Staff Writer

We have reached a new plateau in epic gaming. I'll be honest, I wasn't planning on buying and playing *Mass Effect 2* a month ago.

I was never really into space fantasy — I'm not a Star Wars kid and I've played very few RPGs (role-playing games) through to the end. In this case, though, *Mass Effect 2* and I had a moment.

I was watching the NFC Championship game with a group of friends. New Orleans and Minnesota were tied and Brett Favre was about to begin possibly the last two-minute drill of his career.

Now, I hate being inundated with repetitive advertisements more than anyone. I am sure there is copious data to contradict me here, but I am personally less likely to buy something if I see 2,000 advertisements for it over the course of two games. It just seems desperate. Ford trucks are like the sloppy chick at the party. I don't want that.

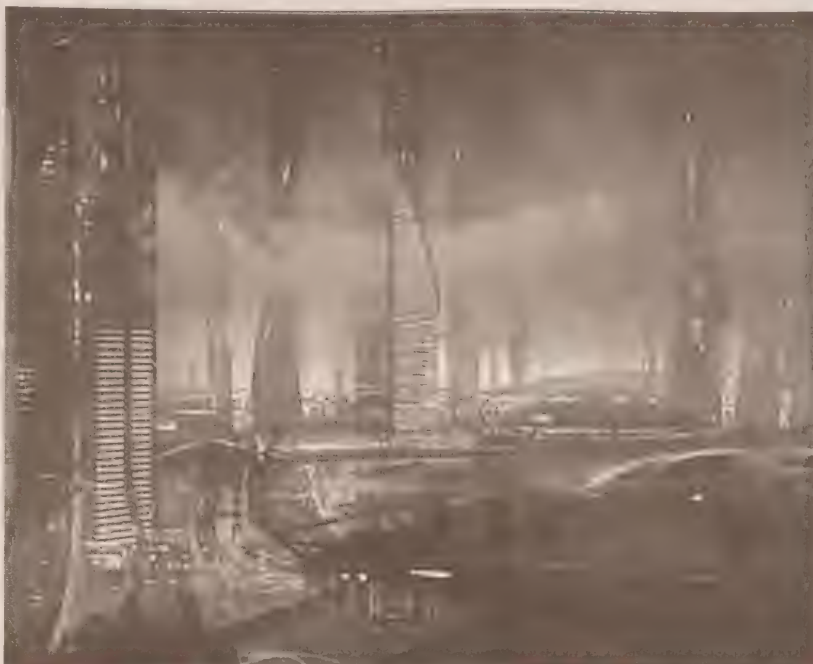
In this particular commercial set, though, BioWare — the makers of *Mass Effect 2* (ME2) — made what can only be the most epic two minutes of television since the early seasons of *The West Wing*.

The commercial marked the first moment all day during which my friends and I were silent.

One kid tried to break the silence with a joke and was immediately and loudly shouted down by more than one entranced viewer. We were in

awe. Martin Sheen's voice telling you to save the galaxy? You just can't say no.

It was a like movie trailer for a video game, and thinking back after having finished the game during the Snowpocalypse 2010, it couldn't have been more accurately depicted. *ME2* plays like an interactive movie, complete with intrigue, romance and of course a chance to save the universe. However, unlike most other games, you may not make it out alive.



Mass Effect 2 sucks gamers into an epic, all-immersive environment — one in which they may not survive.

COURTESY OF WWWTECHTREE.COM

transitions from dialogue to combat, this is the first time I have been truly impressed by cross-genre gaming.

Still, that does not mean I didn't have a few minor problems with *ME2*. The original *Mass Effect* caught a lot of flak for the romance or "relationship building" part of the game. It was even banned in Singapore for a few specific scenes. But trying to make your character flirt with and eventually sleep with another character is certainly an interesting concept.

While it's fulfilling to know that you can be smooth even with the limited speech choices video games provide (it's a lot easier when there are only two choices) this aspect of the game play quickly grew tiresome.

Additionally, the paragon/renege ratings are back from *ME1*, which are basically nice guy/badass points that allow you to do cool things in cut-scenes and unlock more

options in conversation.

You earn these points by choosing the corresponding options during conversations and in making decisions. Unfortunately, the paragon choice is always on top and the renegade option on the bottom.

This makes it easier to follow the desired path, but it would have been nice if they had made the choices less obvious or at least mixed it all up.

Boasting an impressive soundtrack and a cast of voice actors that would make *Tropic Thunder* feel like a B-list movie, with the aforementioned Sheen, The Game, Yvonne Strahovski of TV's *Chuck*, Seth Green and many others all a part of the crew, *ME2* may be the next generation of gaming.

With star-studded casts, an epic story arc, interactive game play and visually stunning graphics, *Mass Effect 2* has it all. Welcome to the future of gaming.

Happy Tears: A fresh look at a twisted family

FROM *HAPPY TEARS*, B3

world. By the end of the film, the manifestation of "crazy" is unrecognizable. Maybe all of the characters should be committed — or maybe they are all perfectly sane. Who is to say?

Lichtenstein also raises questions about human addictions, disease and the psyche. Many of these questions are asked, but never answered.

There are a lot of loose ends in *Happy Tears*. This is due to the number of plots that arise from the interactions of just four central characters, and the number of ways the story could have unfolded. When watching the movie, one sits and hopes, even begs, that it will not go there — but it does.

Much of *Happy Tears* seems unnecessary, not for any superfluous material or fluff, but because of the unneeded plot twists. The movie could have made its point (though such a point has yet to be deciphered) without many of these turns.

When the audience watches Parker Posey float on a jellyfish while tripping on an unknown drug that she has taken during her mental breakdown, they may forget where the film started and where it is all going.

There are many of these dream-like sequences that utilize animation. Some are dreams, some are flashbacks and some nightmares. But they are all jarring to the film's narrative, abruptly removing the viewer from the plot, and they are just one more addition to the movie, posing the question: Why?

Maybe the audience is not supposed to answer this and perhaps that is the point. Just as many of scenes cannot be (and do not want to be) understood, the same is true of human life. Not everything anyone does can be fully recognized.

Everybody has his or her secrets. And yet *Happy Tears* offers an interesting conclusion to what

happens when secrets are revealed and the ending suggests that family does conquer all, even if it is a dysfunctional family. This ending, however, is also far too civil for the crudeness of the movie.

Though *Happy Tears* has its obvious flaws, the acting is superb. Posey is frigid and lost in her daydreams, unable to see what is in front of her. She plays the younger, immature daughter perfectly, as she is unable to see any of her father's flaws and continues to idealize her twisted childhood. She does so convincingly.

There is no doubt that when Posey stands there, arm cocked at the elbow and walking around aimlessly looking at the ceiling, she is lost in her fantasy world.

Barkin's character may be revolting and hard to watch, in her tight jeans with her sticking-out thong, greasy hair and inappropriate heels, but she immerses herself completely in the role. She becomes her character so well that one wonders if those stains on her teeth are real and if all her rocking back in forth is actually drug-induced.

As for the crazy old man, Torn plays his character well. Stumbling around and making inappropriate comments, Torn seems to be enjoying this old age while simultaneously making the audience hope their fathers never turn into this.

The only character that falls a bit short is Laura, played by Moore. Less convincing as a hippie, Moore's character does not astonish the audience like the others. But refraining from delving into one more character's bizarre mind may actually be a blessing.

Happy Tears is not for the squeamish or the sensible. Its tagline reads, "There's an art to going home without going crazy." This should more accurately read, "Going home is about realizing you're all crazy."

Psychiatric art heals patients through creativity

By **SARAH SALOVAARA**
Staff Writer

When one thinks of psychiatric art, images of Rorschach ink blots immediately come to mind. Come this March, though, psychotherapist Eylem Sahin and members of Creative Alternatives will introduce Homewood students to the field of art therapy by exhibiting their work at the Mattin Center.

Creative Alternatives — in operation since 1994 — is a comprehensive, outpatient mental health program for individuals with enduring mental illnesses. It resides within the Community Psychiatry Program at Hopkins Bayview Medical Center. The program follows the recovery model, practicing the philosophy that their clients are capable of far more than their illnesses might suggest.

One of the ways members strive to their full potentials is via art therapy. The instillation will thus feature artwork that has been created by the members and Sahin during their weekly meetings throughout the past year.

Sahin was born in Turkey and educated in France. While

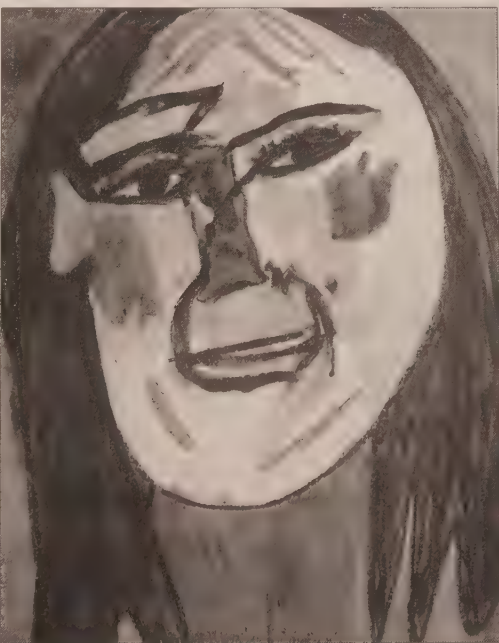
obtaining his Master's degree in counseling psychology, he became interested in alternative healing techniques and expressive art therapies.

He soon began participating in international projects dealing with these techniques. Sahin's first experience in this field came from working at a women's prison in Quetzaltenango, Guatemala, where he helped prisoners paint their cells with symbols representing their hopes and dreams. Sahin later worked closely with trauma survivors, facilitating their healing processes in the employment of art mediums such as food and photography.

When asked if there was a specific theme to this exhibition, Sahin simply replied that it "revolves around the idea that art is therapy." This form of therapy is reliant upon the individual's experiences and so it would be stifling to their creative capacities to assign a motif.

As Sahin explained, "Creativity exists within us, and expressive arts therapies allow members to unleash the unconscious thoughts and elaborate fantasy worlds . . . and to illustrate extreme mental states. It helps people express hidden emotions, reduce stress, fear and anxiety, while providing a sense of freedom."

Sahin notes that despite his members' setbacks, they are perfectly capable artists: "There is something to learn from every experience in life; schizophrenia, paranoia and other persistent mental illnesses are no



COURTESY OF EYLEM SAHIN

Psychiatric patients find expressive artwork to be therapeutic.



COURTESY OF EYLEM SAHIN

Various forms of visual art provide perfect outlets for recovering psychiatric patients.

exception," Sahin said. "They can teach us that there is no limit to our imagination, and imagination is the beginning of creation."

Sahin credits therapy sessions as a driving force for such inspiration. During these sessions, members are able to open up about experiences, people, memories and even hallucinations that affected them, and transfer these thoughts to a canvas.

The members' use of media knows no bounds. "Art therapy," Sahin said, "can work in any medium. During this exhibition you will be able to see self-portraits made with only chocolate and coffee, dream illustrations done with ink, pink, toilet paper sculptures and wooden totems."

Though the particular production processes were often individual efforts, when it came time to select the artwork for the exhibition, the group collectively decided on what would be displayed.

Sahin said he got the idea to put the instillation together when he realized that therapy sessions were no longer just a cathartic learning experience, but something much more. "Something very powerful

was going on. I realized that new perspectives from fantasy worlds, a non-conditional acceptance of the self and others and equally artistic and humanistic thoughts were spreading all over the therapy room to the edges of members' brushes," Sahin said.

"This had to be shared with those who want to learn about mental illness, as well as those who are curious about discovering other perceptions from an artistic point of view."

Following this installation at the Mattin Center, Sahin will be taking the exhibition around the world, a feat made possible by his time spent living and making connections in a variety of countries.

The first international destination is Anadolu Saglik Merkezi in Istanbul, Turkey, the biggest private hospital in Turkey, established with the cooperation of Hopkins. From Istanbul, the exhibit will move to France and then several different locations in Europe, Asia, South and Central America.

The exhibit will run from March 1 to March 19 at the Mattin Center, F. Ross Jones Building.

The reception will take place on March 7 from 12-3 p.m.



COURTESY OF WWWVIDEOGAMESBLOGGER.COM.

Bioshock 2 allows gamers to dually wield genetic powers and high-tech weaponry.

Bioshock sequel offers creepy, water-logged fun

FROM *BIOSHOCK*, B3

Greater still are encounters with "Big Sisters," faster, stronger and infinitely more difficult versions of Big Daddies.

Speaking of new content, *Bioshock 2* has plenty. For the first time, players can duel-wield plasmids and weapons. This makes for a virtually endless variety of attack combinations and constantly spices up the action.

Gamers can do everything from freezing enemies and smashing them with their drills to incinerating them and spearing them to the walls. While enemy AI is very smart, mowing down splicers would tend to get monotonous if it was not for the extensive toolkit of attack possibilities.

Another cool feature of *Bioshock 2* is the chance to adopt Little Sisters. In the past, one could only choose to kill or rescue them, but since this game actually puts you in a Big Daddy suit, now players can use Little Sisters to lead them to ADAM and harvest it for them.

One of the most important new aspects of this game is its multiplayer option. Now gamers can take the battle to Xbox LIVE and helm their own splicer in a variety of game options.

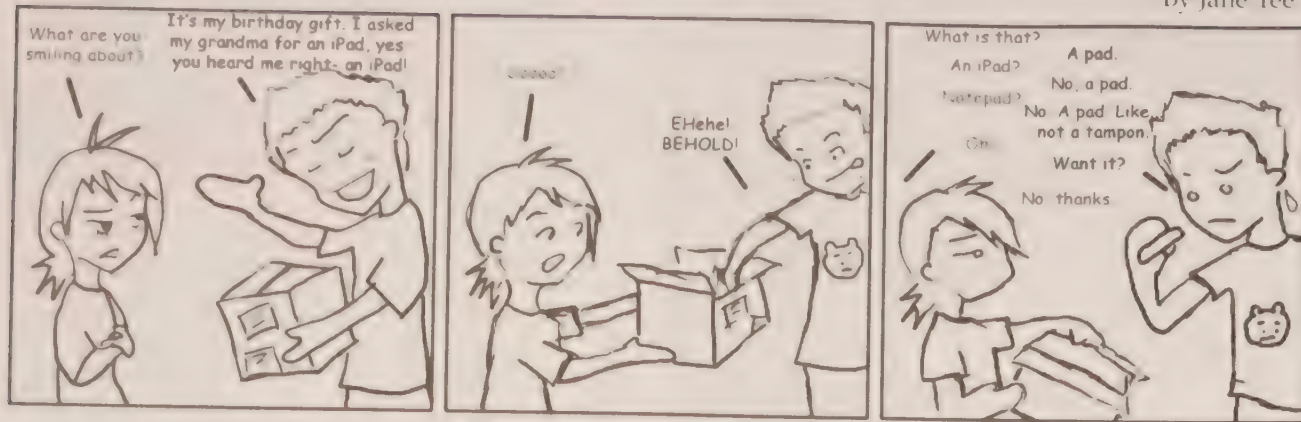
As you win more matches, your splicer has the chance to learn more abilities and become even stronger — and consequently more deranged in appearance. For those tired of *Bioshock*'s admittedly engaging story, multiplayer provides a very enjoyable respite.

In the end, though, the greatest asset of this series comes with the ambience. lush, avant-garde visuals, which create a wholly unique and engaging environment in which the story of Rapture unfolds.

Cut scenes and vintage decorations seem reminiscent of a period piece — this game is set in the '60s, after all — yet many parts of the game are futuristic and may remind players of *Blade Runner*. For a fan of good game play, fantastic art and a completely unique experience, *Bioshock 2* is the world for you.

CARTOONS, ETC.

Quentin and Sam



By Jane Yee

Blue Jay Brigade



JOHNS HOPKINS

Good Night & Good Luck

Hello, JHU here. Sorry no comic this week, I think my cartoonist is somewhere in D-Level studying for an Orgo midterm. Well I hope you all enjoyed your snow week. Have a Happy Valentine's Day and Lunar New Year everyone.

PEABODY

By Kevin Stoll Li



By Kevin Stoll Li

Saumya Gurbani Pun Intended

Dear corporate Weathermakers,
You know we love a great deal and are on
cloud 9 when your prices precipitate.
But is there any chance we could get a
raincheck on this snow?

Word Search: Snow Day Fun

By Katie Mann

WORDS CAN BE FORWARD, BACKWARD, OR DIAGONAL

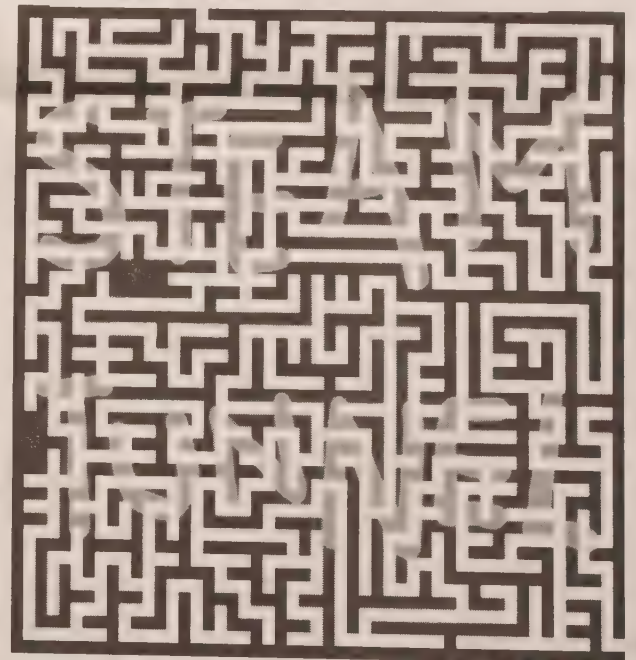
HOT CHOCOLATE
PROCRASTINATE
READING
SLEDDING
SLEEPING

SNOW DAY
SNOW FLAKES
SNOWBALL FIGHTS
SNOWMEN
TELEVISION

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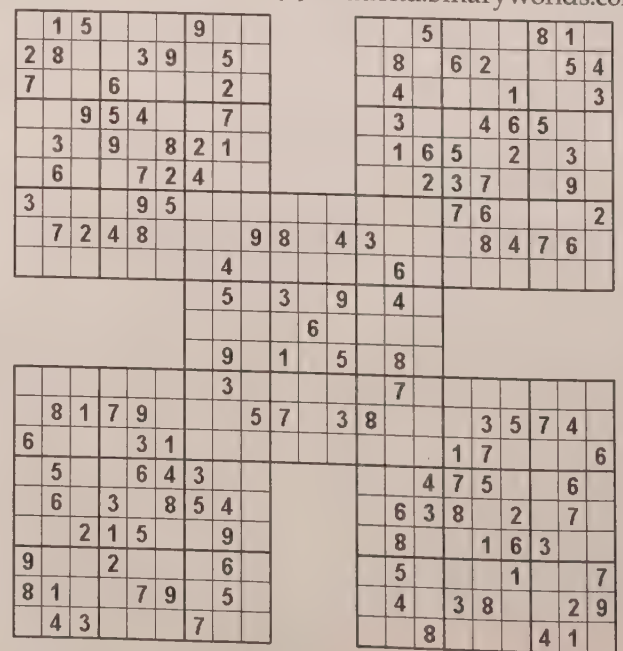
News-Letter Maze

Help the Hopkins
students find the way
out of the steam
tunnel!



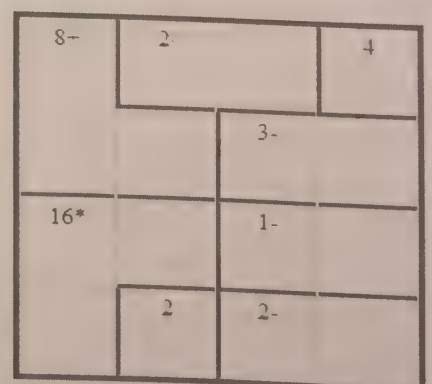
Challenging Sudoku(s)

sudoku.binaryworlds.com



Ken Ken Puzzle

www.webkendoku.com



恭賀新禧
2010



Happy Chinese New Year

Margin Notes: Seeing Snow

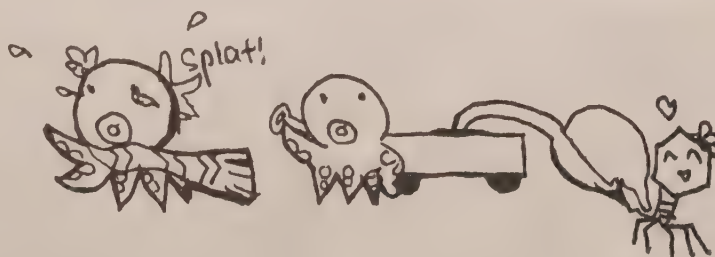
By Takoyaki

1st Time Seeing Snow...



Feeling is analogous to
seeing a rainbow or
roller coaster for the first
time = awe and joy.

2nd Time...



Hatred for snow
blooms as one is
continuously pelted
by snow.

3rd Time and on...

Multiple injuries due to
slipping on refrozen snow
makes one regret moving
to such a cold area...



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Small RNA molecules play role in regulation of genes

By **SAM OHMER**
Staff Writer

A team of Hopkins and Howard Hughes Medical Institute researchers, including Sergej Djuranovic and Rachel Green of the Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics, have discovered how microRNAs work to halt the production of certain proteins.

Although most cells in the human body contain the entire human genome, not every gene needs to, or should, be expressed at all times or in all cells. The regulation of gene expression is an important part of properly functioning cell life.

The team found that certain proteins in the Argonaute (AGO) family bind both messenger RNA (mRNA) and micro RNA (miRNA) or small interfering RNA (siRNA). This dual binding allows the Argonaute proteins to bind to a specific regions of mRNA (specifically the 5' cap, found at the beginning of the mRNA chain). When the protein complex binds to the mRNA, it can then prevent the mRNA from being translated into a protein.

Although it was known before that Argonaute proteins worked together with miRNA to halt protein translation, the Hopkins

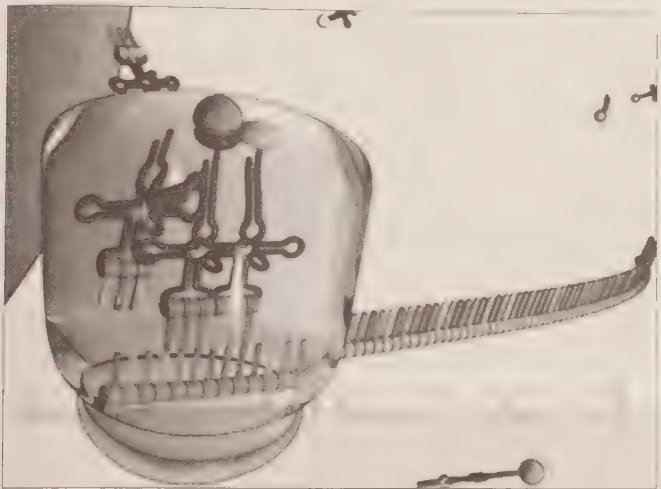
team is the first to propose a mechanism for this process.

After the miRNA (or siRNA) has been transcribed from the DNA code, the tiny RNA fragments are then loaded onto RISC complexes (RNA-induced silencing complexes). The combination of these two components, the small RNA and an AGO protein, gives the siRISCs and miRISCs their specificity, a specificity which will allow the complexes to target specific mRNAs for silencing.

Certain regions of the AGO proteins are especially important in this particular process. The proteins contain an N-terminal domain, a PAZ domain, which binds to the tail end of the siRNA or miRNA, a MID domain, which binds to the head of the siRNA or miRNA, and a PIWI domain for cutting up the mRNA strand.

Green and Djuranovic are especially interested in the MID domain, as it appears that in some AGO proteins this domain controls the binding of the AGOs themselves to specific mi- or si-RNA; the specific mi- or si-RNA binding then confers upon the AGO-small RNA complex a certain "choosiness" as to which mRNA will be cut by the AGO protein's catalytic PIWI domain

SEE *miRNA*, PAGE B9



COURTESY OF WWW.NATURE.COM
AGO proteins, bound to miRNAs, then bind to ribosomes and stop gene translation.

A faulty sense of direction has genetic basis

By **ALICE HUNG**
Staff Writer

A Hopkins research team led by Barbara Landau, a professor in the Cognitive Science Department, recently discovered hereditary components of spatial navigation through studies of people with Williams Syndrome.

Williams Syndrome (WS) is a neurodevelopmental disorder characterized by a deletion of 25 genes on chromosome seven. Those born with this disorder have distinctive facial features, such as an "elfish" appearance and long nasal bridge, along with developmental delays but unusually precocious language skills.

Furthermore, patients with WS have severe difficulty with numbers and trouble with depth perception and spatial relationships.

Past studies have repeatedly pointed to the hippocampus and its surrounding areas as the control center of navigation via geometry. Experiments have shown that in rats, hippocampal cells' firing activity increases as exposure to a set of geometric cues increases. Likewise, hippocampal lesions in pigeons were the sole causes of geometric impairments.

Information concerning orientation in humans is not complete, but it nevertheless supports the hypothesis that hippocampal damage correlates with topographical disorientation, along with injury to the parietal lobe of the brain.

"We have worked for close to 15 years on the nature of spatial impairment in people with Williams Syndrome, and have found across a broad range of spatial tasks that they are not completely impaired, but rather, perform about like normally developing four year old children," Landau said.

In this study, participants with WS and the control group (healthy college students) watched as the experimenter hid a toy in a corner of a rectangular room with black walls. They were then blindfolded and spun



COURTESY OF WWW.KRIEGER.JHU.EDU
Researchers identified the genetic link through studies of patients with Williams Syndrome, who have severe navigation deficits.

around for ten seconds before being asked to locate the object. Subjects with WS searched all four corners randomly, showing that their ability to mentally construct the geometric dimensions of the room to orient themselves is severely impaired.

When one of the walls was painted blue, however, success rates significantly increased, suggesting that those with WS may rely on alternative mechanisms to compensate for their lack of mental geometric representation.

"What's so surprising about our findings on reorientation is that this system of navigation —

which is found across many species and in humans as young as 18 months of age — simply does not function in people with WS," Landau said. "This means that there is some link between the 25 or so genes missing in this syndrome and the development of the neural circuitry that supports our ability to reorient ourselves after disorientation."

Functional imaging in Landau's study indicated decreased blood flow and neural activity in the hippocampal region of individuals with WS. Furthermore, genetically modified mice in other experiments with similar

abnormalities also showed navigation problems. Converging evidence leads to the possible conclusion that orientation is affected by heredity.

Landau showed interest in furthering research on animals in order to identify specific genes directly related to neural development of spatial navigation. Future experimentation of people with WS may also lead to new findings.

"One very interesting direction would be to identify people with smaller deletions, which would enable us to make inferences about which genes are most critical," Landau said.

This week: e-books, tablets and orange energy

This week, we check in with tablets; stop by the Mobile World Congress to learn about the latest upgrades for your cell phones; run through the usual assortment of oddities and interestingly related items from Apple, Microsoft and Google; drop by computer makers around the world; and lastly, pay our dear friends at the Department of Defense a brief visit.

Tablets

When will the surge end? Only Bush knows.

The Notion Ink Adam, slated for a summer 2010 release, has been under development in the shadows for some time and has once again shown its face to the public eye. It now packs a 10-inch 1024x600 transflexive screen, a swiveling camera, three USB ports, built-in WiFi, 3G and Bluetooth with 16 hours of battery life to boot. A Tegra 2-based dual-core CORTEX-A9 processor from ARM runs the show from under the hood.

It has some nice touches such as ambient light and proximity sensors, as well as the all-important accelerometer. The transflexive screen and powerful processor means that it will rival the iPad as well as any other top-of-the-line tablet out there and it will be much more than an e-book.

Transflexive screens allow for reading in sunlight conditions without pumping up the brightness as you would normally need to do with an LCD. The screen lets the light through and illuminates the content you desire to view.

Speaking of e-books, the latest White House economic report has been released in e-book form for the first time. Now that the government has bought into it, I guess it's time for us all to get an e-book reader, or else we won't be able to read these government reports. And we all know how crucial those are for each and every citizen.

LG has announced that it will be launching a product to compete with both Amazon and Apple as early as April. So, that basically guarantees that we will be seeing a tablet coming from LG in the coming months as well. Yes, the tablet market is heating up, let's just hope it's not too hot for consumers to handle.

The MWC (Mobile World Con-

gress) has two big expected announcements this year.

Firstly, Windows Phone 7 Series. This is the big product release of the year for Microsoft and completely changes how Microsoft approaches the mobile world. Forget everything you ever knew about Windows Mobile; this is completely new from the bottom up. Unfortunately, it is all but confirmed that it will not have Flash for the initial release. Is anyone going to get some love from Adobe? Indeed, Android (from Google) is slated to get some Flash action later this year, but the details on that are still murky.

The second announcement is from Samsung. They are introducing their Bada platform via the Samsung Wave phone. It will have a 3.3-inch "Super AMOLED" display (got enough letters there?) and will be very fast, housing 512MB of working RAM, which is no small figure for a phone. This will provide for a very snappy experience.

In the 'slightly off topic but mildly relevant' department, a BlackBerry can act as a personal protection device from point-blank gun discharges. A woman in Ohio was sitting with her boyfriend when his gun went off in the restaurant they were in and shot her in the leg. Luckily, her

BlackBerry intercepted it, in the way a secret-service agent would be expected to jump in front of the President. The BlackBerry now joins the prestigious list of bullet-stopping accessories, along with the Bible and super-thick wallet.

Apple

How many oranges does it take to charge an Apple? Aside from a great deal of patience, 2380 orange slices is all it takes to generate enough power to charge your iPod.

Microsoft

This week, Microsoft pushed out a new patch for the aging Windows XP OS, which fixes an ancient DOS vulnerability. Interestingly, instead of making things any better, some users were met with frustration as their computers crashed and endlessly rebooted.

The big MS's official response is that malware is to blame. Specifically, the patch nudged the malware into action, which tells your PC to stop working. Oh wait, it doesn't take malware to do that.

Google

More specifically, one Google employee, Jason Holt, has been spending 20% of his time at Google working on what he calls "Liquid Galaxy." A curved, 8-display setup allows the user to fly around the planet via Google earth in all its semi-panoramic

SEE *TECH*, PAGE B9

Grocery store interventions lower obesity

By **BARBARA HA**
Staff Writer

Public health researchers and nutritionists have come to notice that in recent decades, the prevalence of diet-related chronic diseases, especially among children, has been drastically increasing.

Additionally, these trends are particularly alarming among low-income ethnic minority populations.

An example of this dangerous public health concern can be observed in the Pacific Islands, where the percentages of obesity and overweight individuals are among the highest in the world.

"The food system in the Pacific is fragile, with small islands far from one other, and with a dependence on food imports," said Rachel Novotny, a researcher at the Department of Human Nutrition at the University of Hawaii. "[The] overweight and obesity prevalence is in the range of 50-90% among adults."

In response to this, many researchers have been implementing programs through food stores that provide health information and encourage the purchase and consumption of healthy foods. Although these interventions have been shown to be very successful, they are mainly focused on the health needs of adults.

To fulfill the need for this type of study in children, a group of researchers at the Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, in collaboration with experts at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, conducted a study targeting members of two low-income mul-

tiethnic communities in Hawaii that focused on both children and their adult caregivers.

"We selected an intervention in food stores as a direct link to the food system issues, and we focused on children as an opportunity for prevention of obesity," Novotny said. "The study was conducted in Hawaii, though consortia nations have also been studying their food stores using the information to guide their outreach programs."

In initiating the Healthy Foods Hawaii (HFH) intervention, this group of researchers studied individuals living in two communities, one on the Island

of Oahu and one on the Island of Hawaii. Lasting between nine and 11 months and spread among five stores within this region, the HFH intervention was comprised of four phases that focused on healthier beverages, healthier snacks for children, healthier

condiments and healthier meals.

Additionally, posters, educational displays and shelf labels were used as educational tools. Cooking demonstrations and taste tests were also held at the stores during each phase.

The findings of this study showed a statistically significant improvement in food-related knowledge among adult caregivers who participated in this intervention. This intervention helped nutritionists to overcome adult caregivers' perceptions that healthy foods were inconvenient to both obtain and prepare.

Using a measure called the Healthy Eating Index (HEI), significant improvements in the

consumption of nutritious foods such as grains and increased consumption of water were also observed among children involved in the intervention.

"In the study, we were able to improve food knowledge and perceptions of caregivers, by providing targeted information in food stores," Novotny said, "and we improved dietary intake of their children."

Notably, a unique aspect of this study was the involvement of the local producers and distributors as a part of this program. The researchers realized that this was an essential component of the long-term sustainability of intervention activities.

Although this study reveals new information regarding children's dietary habits and the perceptions of caregivers in ethnic minority populations, further studies are still required to provide more healthy foods to similar groups. For example, this study showed a significant impact on the caregivers of the children, but this may not be an accurate representation of the actual trends in this group because many messages were targeted towards the caregivers rather than both the caregiver and children.

Further studies that target the children would shed more light on ways to improve healthy food consumption among children of ethnic minority populations of low-income levels. Additionally, this study was relatively small; future studies may consider involving a greater population with a broader range of local food sources that could potentially support sweeping policy changes.

"Change in more elements of the food system is needed, in order to maintain and increase the shift toward healthier eating," Novotny said. "Such policies might relate to food imports and local food distribution systems in order to encourage local food production and consumption."

Change in more elements of the food system is needed, to maintain and increase the shift toward healthier eating.

— **RACHEL NOVOTNY,**
RESEARCHER



COURTESY OF YOUTUBE.COM, ASUS.COM, 3G.CO.UK, AMAZON.COM
Clockwise, from top left: Citrus powered iPhone, Eee PC, Samsung Wave, Wiimote weights.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Fossilized feathers may reveal dinosaur colors

Pigment-containing cells are discovered in the fossilized feathers and hairs of carefully preserved dinosaurs

By IAN YU
Staff Writer

If you ever questioned the plausibility of the detailed, colorful displays and pictures of long-extinct dinosaurs that were constructed from excavated, fossilized bones, your doubts were probably well-founded — until now.

Researchers from China, Ireland and the United Kingdom have found evidence of melanosomes, cell organelles that contain pigments such as melanin, among fossils of several dinosaur species from the Early Cretaceous Jehol Group of northeastern China.

In a short article published in *Nature*, the group details its observations from the use of scanning electron microscopy on

fossilized feather and hair specimens. Small, micrometer-sized pockets were visible in the fossilized specimens that the researchers examined.

They determined that these structures were indeed melanosomes, refuting the possibility that they were replacement bacteria. The researchers noted in their article that the morphology is identical to that of melanosomes found in the feathers of modern birds, and that these structures are embedded inside the feathers as opposed to forming the outer coating that is characteristic of bacteria.

In addition, melanosomes and melanin are composed of molecules tough enough to withstand chemical and physical degradation.

"The melanin itself probably

doesn't survive for millions of years, but what's crucial is the first days or months after death when a carcass decomposes,"

Michael Benton, Professor of Earth Sciences at the University of Bristol, UK, wrote in an email to the *News-Letter*. "Tissues such as bones and feathers that are tougher than muscles and eyeballs may survive long enough to be buried."

According to Benton, the coloration currently used when generating visuals of dinosaurs

are based on images of current animal species. "Previous dinosaur colors have been based on

comparisons to modern analogues and assumed functions of colors — so giant sauropods are usually shown as dull gray, analogous to elephants and rhinos," he said.

However, this discovery does not mean that researchers can deter-

mine the full coloration of dinosaurs yet. "So far, we can only identify melanosomes in feathers and hairs, so we can only do this for dinosaurs whose feathers are preserved, and at the moment these are virtually only in the exceptional sites in China."

The Jehol beds in China have yielded many specimens from the late Cretaceous period, which lasted from 99.6 to 65.5 million years ago. Many of these fossils contain feathers and possible feather precursors. The presence of many birds also helped contribute to the understanding of the early evolution of birds during this time period.

The presence of feathers among many dinosaur species in the region has also resulted in controversy over the evolutionary relationship between dinosaurs and birds, according to the University of Bristol's Palaeobiology and Biodiversity Group's website.

Benton and his collaborators note in their paper that the presence of melanosomes in fossilized feathers does allow for partial reconstruction of the external coloration of the feathered creatures.

Furthermore, they may update debates regarding the function of feathers in non-avian dinosaurs, with the group suggesting thermoregulation, camouflage or communication as possibilities.

"Certainly, the discovery of feathers in numerous dinosaurs after 1996 adds another suite of unique characteristics shared by dinosaurs and birds," Benton said in his email.

"Melanosomes are another detail that confirms that even the simple bristles of *Sinosauropteryx* are actually protofeathers, not something else, as had been proposed."

We can only identify melanosomes . . .

where dinosaurs with feathers are preserved.

— MICHAEL BENTON,
UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL
PROFESSOR



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The discovery of melanosomes, or bird-like pigments, may provide insight into the function of feathers in flightless dinosaurs.

Research links deafness and synapse sizes

By MALI WIEDERKEHR
Staff Writer

A recent study conducted by scientists at the Hopkins School of Medicine along with other universities has shown that cats that have been deafened chemically as opposed to those with hereditary deafness have different auditory neuron responses.

Furthermore, auditory electrical stimulation in deafened cats expands a specialized part of the synapse, the space between adjacent neurons, that allows for fast communication.

This region is known as the postsynaptic density (PSD).

As a result of the fast, intercellular communication enabled by the PSD, the PSD has been the subject of many recent studies concerning plasticity.

Plasticity involves changes in the strength of signals at the synapse and relates to the formation or removal of neural connections. This study explored the PSD as it relates to auditory function. Scientists administered a toxin to newborn kittens, which removed their auditory receptors, or hair cells in the ear that enable hearing. This process that damages the ear is called ototoxicity, using the antibiotic neomycin.

Newborn kittens were chosen because the effects of early-stage deafness are more severe than those displayed by animals who have had previous hearing experience. This has also been observed in young children who benefit more from cochlear implants than their elder counterparts.

Two months following the kittens' birth, cochlear implants

were inserted in the ears of some kittens. Cochlear implants work by directly stimulating the auditory nerve.

In doing so, they essentially sidestep the faulty auditory cell receptors. These kittens were stimulated with electrical signals for up to a year.

The remaining kittens were left untreated. An additional group of kittens with normal hearing were kept as a control.

Scientists then proceeded to observe the kittens and subsequently examined the differences in their hearing.

They chose a specific area of the ear known as the endbulbs of Held as their point of study. The endbulbs of Held are located at the end of the auditory nerve and were chosen because they are easily found and indicate signs of deafness.

The results of the study indicated that chronic electrical stimulation to the inner ear restores the PSD. It was previously thought that the PSD is restored as a result of the shrinkage of other auditory-related cells, which occurs when hearing is lost. However, this study demonstrates that the PSD is restored independently of these other non-functioning cells.

Compared with electrically stimulated cats that showed signs of hereditary deafness, the PSD of ototoxically deafened cats was similar, yet slightly smaller. The increase in volume of tissue (a phenomenon known as hypertrophy) is believed to be less prominent in ototoxically deafened cats due to the treatment.

Regardless of cause of deafness, this study indicates a

cause-and-effect relationship between deafness and synaptic size. Synapse structure is restored by electrical stimulation to the inner ear. The functional implications of this restoration are yet unknown.



COURTESY OF WWW.JHU.EDU

This research may improve cochlear implants.

By DAN CADEL
Staff Writer

It seems that computers and electronics are improving almost daily, too fast for consumers to try to keep up. There comes a time however, when the current methods reach their height of performance. That's when new technologies must be introduced to further advance the field.

Currently, data has been transferred on chips via electricity in wires. This process requires great amounts of power, especially at the high bandwidths necessary for data transfer at current standards. To overcome this challenge, researchers are working to incorporate lasers into chips. Lasers transfer data through beams of light instead of currents of electrons.

Modern lasers use materials such as gallium arsenide, which is difficult and expensive to fabricate in a chip setting. Chips are made by layering materials onto wafers of silicon, then inscribing patterns into the layers.

The material properties of gallium arsenide, however, require that the lasers be built separately and then attached to an already-constructed chip.

These lasers are all semiconductors, which are common in electronic devices. Semiconductors are made from materials that provide for energy gaps at a molecular level. For a particle to move up to a higher energy level, it must absorb energy, and for it to drop in level, it must release energy. This drop is associated with the release of a photon, which in lasers is concentrated as visible light.

Researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, led by Postdoctoral Associate Jifeng Liu, have successfully constructed germanium lasers in chips using standard production processes.

Germanium is an indirect band gap material, as opposed to the more common direct band gap materials. In all semiconductors, there are two excited energy levels, but only one results in the release of a photon of light. In indirect band gap materials, this preferred state is less readily attained.

"Doping" is a common way of increasing the frequency of reaching the preferred level. In this process, a different element is added to the semiconductor, which in this case is phosphorus. The phosphorus has more free electrons than silicon does, thus increasing the quantity of elec-



COURTESY OF WWW.NASA.GOV

The new Robonaut2 is stronger and more dextrous than all other humanoid robots.

I, Robot: NASA and GM develop bots that interact with humans

By VIVEK SINANAN
Staff Writer

Researchers at NASA and General Motors are collaborating on the development of the latest generation in humanoid robotics, Robonaut2, or R2, for use in the aerospace and automotive industries.

Robonaut1, the predecessor to R2, was designed 10 years ago by the Robot Systems Technology Branch at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston and the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), a division of the Department of Defense.

The intended purpose of the Robonaut1 project was to develop a robot for NASA that could be used for Extravehicular Activity (EVA), more commonly known as spacewalks, which involves work done away from Earth but outside of the spacecraft. EVA tasks carry a great risk for humans and Robonaut1 was designed to perform these tasks while a human remains in control.

Spacewalks are planned for the majority of missions to the International Space Station that focus on assembly and are essential to repairing in-orbit failures.

Over the past three years, scientists and engineers at NASA and GM have been developing R2: a faster, more dextrous and more technologically advanced version of the first generation Robonaut.

The increased dexterity of the second generation robot was essential to the researchers, as it would be needed in order to perform even more difficult work. While the full range of human motion and sensitivity has not been implemented in R2, it still possesses an impressive 14 degrees of freedom in its hands, with touch sensors at its fingertips.

The hand of R2 is broken down into two essential sections. The first is the dexterous work set, which is used for manipulation. The second is the grasping set, which allows the hand to

maintain a stable grasp on the tools while manipulating it with its dexterous fingers.

Robonaut 2 utilizes telepresence to carry out its functions. Cameras on the robot are used to set up a virtual reality display that will allow the human operators to see exactly what the robot sees.

This requires the robot to be provided with certain stimuli so it can know when and where to perform its tasks. The robot also utilizes various levels of autonomy that allow it to work without guidance and assistance from humans.

Both NASA and GM have similar reasons for working on R2. They both want a robot that can work effectively alongside humans. For NASA, it is about developing a machine with the same dexterous ability of humans that can work in excessively dangerous places.

General Motors' main goal in the future is to develop safer cars and safer construction plants. They intend to use R2 to perform tasks that are very repetitive, dull and ergonomically challenging. By utilizing the robot to perform these non value-added jobs, humans have more time to spend on the essential safety parts of the vehicle.

Furthermore, NASA sees R2 as a way to increase the efficiency of tasks that can only be done by humans by using the robot to perform the build-up and break-down jobs that come before and after the essential human work.

General Motors believes that the technology used to develop Robonaut 2 can be applied by its engineers to develop safer vehicles, more specifically by using the controls, sensors and vision technology of R2 in future cars.

NASA and GM share a long history together, going back to the 1960s when they collaborated on the development of the navigational systems for the Apollo missions and the development of the Lunar Rover Vehicle, the first of its kind to be used on the moon.

Germanium lasers may boost computer chip processing speed

By DAN CADEL
Staff Writer

It seems that computers and electronics are improving almost daily, too fast for consumers to try to keep up. There comes a time however, when the current methods reach their height of performance. That's when new technologies must be introduced to further advance the field.

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"Doping" is a common way of increasing the frequency of reaching the preferred level. In this process, a different element is added to the semiconductor, which in this case is phosphorus. The phosphorus has more free electrons than silicon does, thus increasing the quantity of elec-

trons available to be excited.

The researchers at MIT determined that 10^{20} atoms of phosphorus per cubic centimeter is the ideal density. In their latest work, they have achieved 10^{19} atoms per cubic centimeter in the lab.

"Making a laser using a heavily doped semiconductor material is very different from conventional methods," Liu said in an e-mail to *The News-Letter*.

"Since the dopant atoms (phosphorous) are different from the host atoms (germanium) in sizes and properties, heavily doping germanium can introduce unwanted defects that deteriorate light emission if the process is not carefully controlled."

The researchers "strained" germanium levels in order to manufacture the germanium directly on the silicon, and as a result, fur-

ther increase the percent of electrons in the correct energy level.

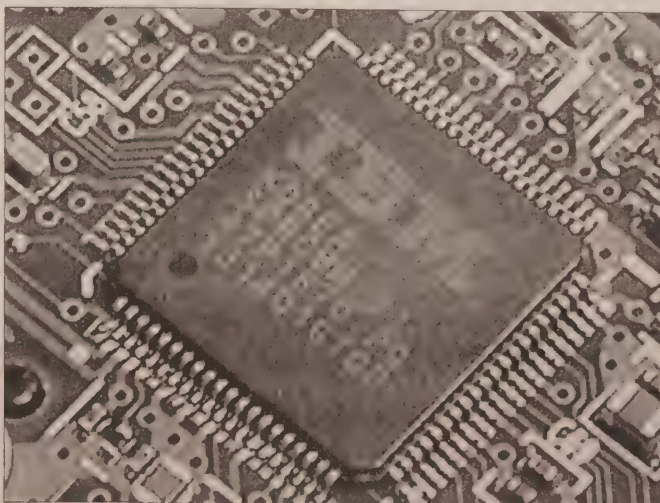
This process involves heating both the silicon and germanium to high temperatures, thus thermally expanding the material. Once correctly aligned and allowed to cool, the silicon contracts less than germanium does. Because of the structure, the silicon therefore limits the decrease in the size of germanium, increasing the strain at operating temperatures.

Next for the team is using electric current to power these lasers.

"We have demonstrated the first germanium light-emitting diode on silicon last year," Liu said, "so we believe that an electrically pumped laser diode can be achieved with improved device design." Improving the doping rate up to 10^{20} atoms per cubic centimeter is also a priority, because this will increase the efficiency of the devices.

Ultimately, Liu and his group are looking to improve data transfer rates with lower power consumption by introducing arrays of lasers operating at different wavelengths. "Information from each core can be uniquely color-coded, which greatly simplifies programming of multicore chips," Liu said.

"Information from different cores can be transferred in parallel through a single photonic wire, a perfect match to parallel information processing of multicore microchips. We are looking forward to terabits per second data transmission and processing capability with this new technology, which is more than 100 times better than existing technologies."



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Current computer chips rely on the movement of electrons to transmit information.

So many gadgets and so little time

TECH, FROM B7
glory, with voice commands. It's hard to get closer to flying than this without actually being in the cockpit. A very cool video awaits you.

On the topic fibers and weights, at the company level, Google is deploying super-blazing-fast awesome-net. Unfortunately it's just internet, but it's coming at you at 1Gbps, via fiber, and Seattle's mayor Mike McGinn is keen to be first in line. We will have to wait and see just who gets to test out Google's latest creation. Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, are you listening?

Aside from providing internet, fiber is otherwise rather ordinary. Unless you are talking about nanofibers, that is. The list of things that nanofibers can do is getting so long, I've been wondering for some time now why they haven't just made a list of things that nanofibers have yet to do.



COURTESY OF WWW.GSCREEENCORP.COM
The GScreen Spacebook earns its name with two 17.3-inch, still-portable screens.

Argonaute proteins work with microRNAs to silence genes

MIRNA, FROM B9
Green and colleagues have established that the MID domain interacts with the small RNA's 5' head, causing an allosteric change in the AGO protein that then allows it to better interact with mRNA caps. This interaction will eventually lead to "interference," or the prevention of mRNA translation into protein in the ribosome. This would make sense as far as the AGOs structures would predict, as the AGO family contains a conserved feature, called a Rossman-like fold, which is a common feature in other proteins that bind two targets allosterically. Furthermore, differences in these MID domains might also be predictive of overall functional differences between various AGO

proteins. Though related, not all AGOs behave in exactly the same way, and most, in fact, seem to group themselves according to specific activities and functions. Most likely, allosteric control and functional diversity based upon MID domains work together in vivo to help cells monitor and regulate the levels of expression of various genes, allowing the cells to function properly. Understanding these complex processes could in the future even have therapeutic or pharmacological potential; by understanding the mechanism of translational regulation, scientists and doctors could potentially manipulate these processes in malfunctioning cells — like cancer — in vivo, allowing for the correction of detailed cellular mechanisms.

A group of researchers from RTI International have declared war on incandescent and compact fluorescent light bulbs. They say that nanofiber lighting is five times more efficient than incandescent while being safer than compact fluorescents due to the lack of mercury. CFLs, we hardly knew ya.

If there is one thing nanofibers can not do just yet, it's lift weights. For that you need some dumbbells. Specifically, these dumbbell-shaped Wiimote holders, for your videogame fitness pleasure. The 2 lb. model is \$30. Who said video games were not a weighty topic?

Computing
There are so many options for computers now, from netbooks to tablets to power-phones to touch-screen convertibles. Now make some room for this cross between a netbook and a convertible tablet. The T101MT multitouch Eee PC from ASUS is a netbook that

swivels around to fold back on itself, and has multitouch (albeit resistive) to sweeten the deal. Excited yet? You will just have to wait, because there is no mention of price nor release date. At least it comes in both black and white.

On the complete opposite end of the spectrum is the GScreen Spacebook. Yes, Spacebook. What kind of computer could possibly warrant such an illustrious title? Perhaps a laptop that could expand into two 15-inch screens? Apparently the makers of this computer felt that that did not provide enough screen space, and have upped the ante to two 17.3-inch screens. A laptop that has two screens which are both individually too big for mobile use, combine to become portable.

If you want to get your hands on one, the plan for this device is to sell it via online retailers starting May, including Amazon and Buy.com. The Spacebook costs \$2,895, so start saving up and hope they do not change their minds and bump it up to two 20-inch screens.

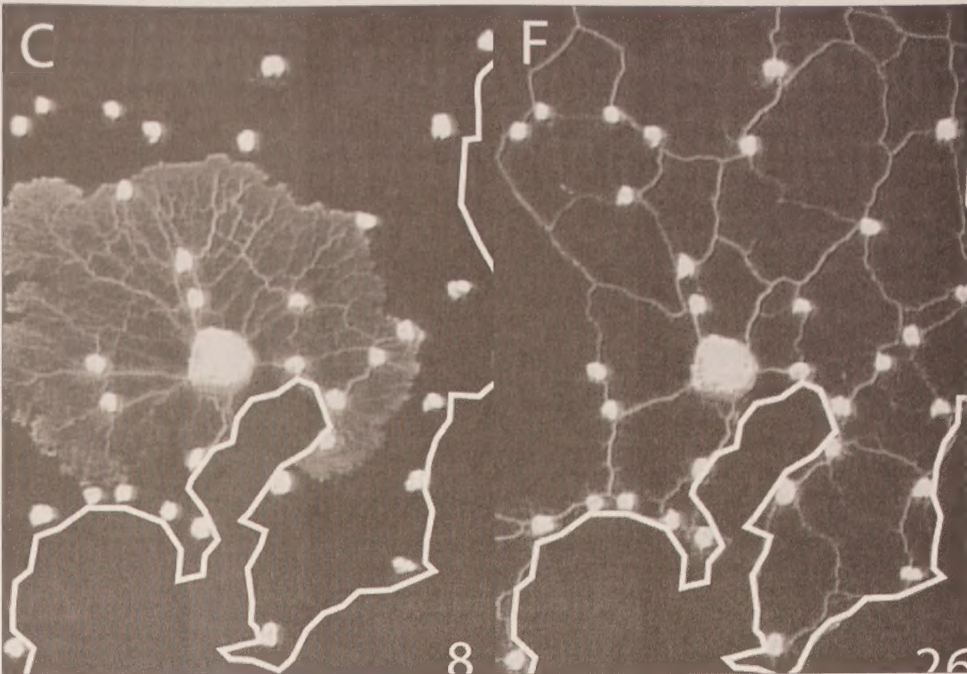
The only thing crazier than a laptop with two 'too huge' displays just might be a new computer chip from IBM that is 'too huge.' Weighing in at 1.2 billion transistors, the Power7 is no slacker. It packs 8 cores, each capable of running 4 simultaneous threads, with 8MB of L3 DRAM cache per core, chugging along at 3.8GHz. Let me go over that again: 32 parallel tasks, on a total of 64MB of L3 cache, with a 3.8GHz eating it up. And no, you will not be affording this one.

Whereas the Spacebook was within the realm of reason, the Power7 is so far out in space that it is virtually untenable. It costs a hair over \$34,000 for the chip alone. It takes 2TB of DDR3 RAM and 24 SSD drives to feed a processor of this caliber. Yes, that was 2 terabytes of RAM. Case closed.

So from tablets to the latest mobile phones to nanofiber feats to huge laptops and hugely expensive computer chips, I leave you with a touch of military news.

The folks at the Department of Defense always have some fun projects going. They recently tested their laser mounted Boeing 747, destroying a missile in mid-flight. Yes, you read that right. We can now blow a missile out of the sky with a laser mounted on a flying plane.

On the ground side of things, the SpecOps WC2 wearable computer now gets a keyboard courtesy of iKey, no relation to Apple. It is said to especially rugged, though it looks more like a phone keypad with a pad for mouse movements. Now soldiers can update Facebook profiles during breaks!



COURTESY OF WWW.GAWKER.COM
The mold initially grew many projections to access the food sources, but quickly trimmed them back to maximize efficiency.

Traffic ahead: Expect . . . mold?

Researchers simulate the bustling Tokyo subway system by growing slime mold

By ALEENA LAKHANPAL
Staff Writer

In the London Tube, we're told to "Mind the gap" as we shuffle through a maze of multicolored lines criss-crossing below the metropolis above.

You hear stories involving confusion and frustration from New York, Paris, and almost any other major city with a metro-rail system and you begin to wonder who possibly could have come with such ridiculous routes. City planners? Civil engineers? Frequent train-boarders?

In any other city, those people would definitely have some sort of input in the layout of the rails, but in Tokyo, a potential primary constructor doesn't even have a central nervous system — it's just the highly resourceful slime mold.

Researchers from various universities in Japan and from Oxford in the UK designed an experiment in which a slime mold culture mapped out an extremely efficient train route for urban Tokyo.

The species of choice, *Physarum polycephalum*, is an amoeboid organism that can actively forage for various surrounding food sources. It does so by extending tube-like appendages in search of food and once the food is found, the appendages send the nutrients back to the main cell body.

A central food supply was provided for the cell body. Sev-

eral food crumbs were scattered around the mold, representing the locations of the most popular rail stations and hubs of activity in Tokyo.

To account for geographic barriers such as mountain terrain or water hazards, the scientists used bright lights, which the slime mold avoids (almost as much as people avoid anything called slime mold).

After eight hours, the *Physarum* had spread out across the cultured area, sucking up nutrients wherever it could.

However, after 26 hours, it had pruned back many of its extraneous feeder tubes and had confined itself to an efficient network of well-placed appendages, connecting each of the food sources as efficiently as possible.

At the 26-hour mark and beyond, the researchers found that the *Physarum* had not only networked out its preferred routes but that it had simultaneously removed any redundant connections. The system of tubes was thriving on its food crumbs and had successfully avoided the brightly lit areas representing geographic barriers.

And when the researchers

compared the network formed by the mold to a schematic map of the Tokyo rail routes, it appeared that those city planners with their extensive mathematical models and the slime mold with its complete lack of a basic central nervous system

were actually thinking along the same lines.

The only difference was that the slime mold came up with it in a little more than a day, while engineers and elected officials battled over possible routes over a period of months to years.

Their paper, published in *Science* magazine, reminds readers that transport networks, whether they are moving food or people, are tricky balances between maximizing cost effectiveness, efficiency and tolerance of localized failures in the system.

The researchers also acknowledge evolution's trial and error to optimize slime mold nutrient transport. So even though the name sounds pretty gross and you would probably just feel better minding the gap into a journey mapped out by a highly-paid engineer, why ignore our unicellular friends who have had to network to survive for millions of years?

Science in the Media

Nature may impede publication of stem cell research

Fourteen stem cell researchers have publicly complained in a letter to *Nature* that the prestigious, peer-reviewed journal was standing in the way of the publication of new stem cell research.

In the letter, they claim that their findings in the field have been delayed by calls from the reviewers for additional, unnecessary experiments so that the friends of the reviewers may be allowed to publish first.

These claims have not yet been verified, and the editors of *Nature* and another highly-read journal, *Science*, have refuted them, saying that the existence of such an elite clique is entirely fabricated.

Many critics of the journals suggest that their primary objective is to publish research in such "hot" topics first, regardless of the quality of the study.

In the paper-submission process, if the editor of the journal finds deems the research worthy of publication, he will send it to other researchers in the field, who will provide comments and feedback.

However, it is possible that these researchers may be in competition with the researchers who submitted the paper,



COURTESY OF WWW.WAISMAN.WISC.EDU
Stem cell researchers wrote to *Nature* over perceived injustices in the peer-review process.

opening the possibility that acceptance of the paper is not based solely on the merits of the research alone.

Bipartisan Policy Center simulates cyber-attack on U.S.

This week, the Bipartisan Policy Center, a non-profit organization, simulated an attack on the nation's technology infrastructure to assess the possible governmental response if such an attack were to actually occur.

Although something as severe as the simulation, which involved a vicious computer virus, destroyed gas and electricity lines and a hurricane, is unlikely to happen, security experts wanted to determine the appropriate reaction to crises that were similar in their severity.

Several officials, including former Homeland Security adviser Fran Townsend, participated in the exercise and debated the constitutionality of measures such as banning mobile phone use to stop the spread of the virus, or taking action against the attacking nation.

The event, which was staged in a Washington hotel, had participants play the roles of the Secretary of State, National Security

Adviser and the Director of National Intelligence. The attack will be broadcast on CNN this week.

More doubts over global warming data raised by new research

Since last November's leak of emails between climate scientists that implied data about global warming was being manipulated, more questions have risen about the scientific validity of their numbers.

Phil Jones, former director of the Climatic Research Unit at the University of Anglia and the professor at the center of the controversy, admitted last week that there has been no statistically significant rise in temperatures for the last 15 years.

Furthermore, Jones says that, because of poor organizational skills, he may have lost the raw data and papers from which he drew his original conclusions about global warming.

New research has also shown that the data gathered from weather stations worldwide, which appeared to show a rise in temperatures, may have been skewed by human development over the last 150 years. Urbanization and land development — for example, airports and waste treatment plants built next to weather

stations artificially raise the local temperature near the stations.

At the same time, data from other sources, such as receding glaciers, changing weather patterns and rising sea levels, seem to indicate that the world is indeed warming.

Furthermore, data from satellites that covers a greater range of time show a rising trend in temperatures.

Google revises Buzz to include more options, better privacy

Google's latest development, unveiled last Tuesday, struck a

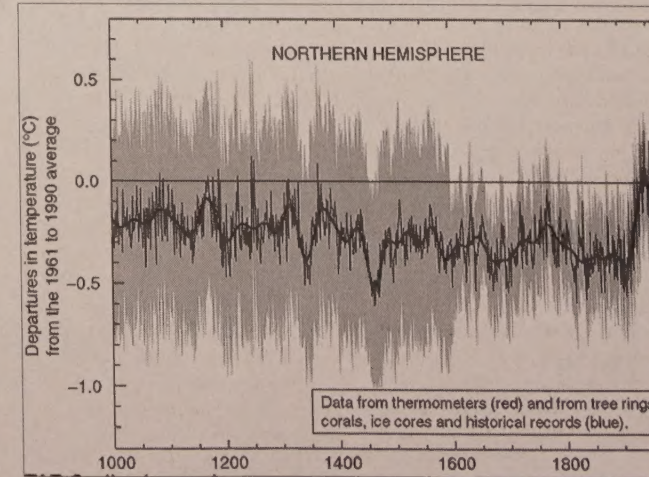
sour note with many users over privacy concerns.

Buzz automatically connected Gmail users with their most frequently emailed contacts, allowing followers to see and comment on status updates, public posts from Picasa and Google Video, and other social networking sites.

However, many users became worried that their information or even private emails and chats were being shared with a list of people outside of their control.

On Saturday, Google announced on their blog that they updated Buzz with more privacy features. Users now have greater control over what information is displayed and who can see it.

— Briefs by Tiffany Ng and Ann Wang



COURTESY OF WWW.JOANNENOVA.COM.AU
The hockey-stick graph, showing rising trend in global temperatures, may be inaccurate.

SPORTS

Women's basketball clinches playoff spot

By LYNDON O'CONNOR
For The News-Letter

For the second straight year, the Hopkins Women's Basketball team has clinched a spot in the playoffs and will compete in the Centennial Conference Championship.

After a magical run to the championship game last year, the team fell just short of the conference title in a 76-55 loss to Muhlenberg College.

"It left a bad taste in our mouths," said senior guard Leigh McAdams. "No one expected us to go as far as we did, and it was great, but we want to take it one step further this time."

The Blue Jays were able to inch closer to their goal this past weekend beginning with a huge offsite win at powerhouse and conference rival McDaniel College.

The Green Terror came in riding a 17-game win streak and a league-best 15-2 conference record. The numbers did not phase the Blue Jays who overcame a 12 point halftime deficit to pull out one of the biggest wins of the season.

Early on, the Green Terror jumped on the Blue Jays and set a 12-2 lead. Hopkins responded with their own 11-2 run highlighted by a 3-pointer by sophomore sensation Chantel Mattiola.

The rest of the half belonged to McDaniel as they gradually increased their lead and enjoyed a comfortable 12 point advantage at the half.

Keeping the Blue Jays afloat in the first half was junior forward and *News-Letter* Athlete of the Week Lyndsay Burton, with 13 first half points.

In the second half the backcourt got busy. As the snow fell outside, Mattiola kept it raining in the gym, knocking down another huge three during a run that brought the Blue Jays within one point. Moments later senior guard Katie Biggart hit fellow senior backcourt mate Anastasia Wynn for a layup and a one point lead.

The remainder of the half resembled a championship title fight with both teams delivering blows and trading the lead. With 1:30 to play, Mattiola put the Blue Jays up by one with a layup.



FILE PHOTO
Sophomore Chantel Mattiola attempts a shot in the paint.



FILE PHOTO
Senior Katie Biggart drives by Gettysburg's Julie McGrory. The basketball team clinched a playoff spot on Monday with a win.

However, it was Biggart who made sure it stayed that way. Biggart, a senior guard and the Blue Jays' floor general, converted a layup that gave the Blue Jays a three point lead. She then delivered the dagger by sinking two free throws to put the game out of reach.

Biggart finished with 12 points while Mattiola added 10. Burton had a game high 17 points and 14 boards with an impressive seven of them coming on the offensive end.

After the game, senior forward Monica Mitchell described the win.

"They were number one in the conference and the game had already been rescheduled twice because of the snow, so we were ready to play," Mitchell said. "It was a great team win, and it's great for the seniors because it's the first time we've won here since freshman year."

While the Blue Jays got to enjoy a great win, they had to quickly turnaround and play Haverford College in the Goldfarb Gymnasium the next day.

It was the annual Pink Zone game which saw the Blue Jays sporting their dapper pink and white uniforms in support of Breast Cancer Awareness.

Haverford came into the game 5-16 on the season and 3-14 in the Centennial Conference. However, even with this weak record, Coach Funk made sure that her girls did not take the Fords lightly and from the opening tip-off the Blue Jays sped out to a 19-5 lead. During this run, the Blue Jays were at their best and it looked to be another win in Coach Funk's already impressive bag.

However, this would be the Blue Jays biggest lead of the game as Haverford came storming

back with a 22-7 run taking the lead with 4:24 left in the half. This flurry from the Fords sent the Blue Jays reeling back but the resilient Jays responded with their own combo including a jumper by freshman Alex Vassila which helped the Blue Jays to a 34-30 halftime lead.

After Haverford's run in the first half, the Blue Jays knew they were in for a fight. The second half was just that and saw seven lead changes.

With 8:08 remaining in the game, the Blue Jays took a 47-46 lead on an And-1 play by junior forward Nia Josiah. This however would be the Blue Jays' final lead of the game.

Haverford knotted the game at 47 on a free throw and then took the lead with a 3-pointer. The Blue Jays brought it within one point on two free throws by senior forward Monica Mitchell, but were never able to regain the lead, suffering a devastating 54-50 loss.

"We just came off of a big win yesterday beating McDaniel, so our heads weren't in the game," Mattiola said. "It was evident afterward how much that loss truly hurt us. I know that feeling will help us work harder in future games."

These proved to be words of wisdom as the Blue Jays would get the chance to redeem themselves two days later when they traveled to Swarthmore College to take on the Garnet.

With the feeling from the Haverford game sitting in their stomachs and a playoff spot on the line, it was pretty clear that the Blue Jays weren't playing around.

As junior forward Siobhan Callanan described it, "We treated it like a business trip. We had a job to do and until we did it, no fun, no games, just business."

It was business indeed as senior Anastasia Wynn got things started with a 3-pointer 31 seconds in. From there, the Blue Jays never looked back.

They quickly increased their lead to 22, dominating the rest of the first half. Swarthmore came

out of the break and showed some life by scoring the first nine points of the second half.

However, Callanan stopped the bleeding with a pair of free throws followed by a layup by Burton giving the Blue Jays an eight point lead.

Although the Garnet came within four points with 8:33 left in the game, the Blue Jays stepped on the gas increasing the lead to ten which would be good enough for the win and a playoff berth.

The Blue Jays were paced by four players in double figures. Wynn finished with a team high 12, Callanan added 11, and Mitchell and Mattiola poured in 10 each.

When asked how it felt to clinch an early berth, senior guard Leslie Markun said, "It feels very rewarding to know we have the playoffs in sight after our hard work this season. With double round robin play, we saw each team twice and were able to establish a definitive playoff spot during that time. Now it's time to take advantage of that opportunity."

Although their focus is now set on the postseason, the Blue Jays have not lost sight of their two remaining regular season games.

When asked about these games, sophomore guard Stephanie Fong replied, "We're excited about getting in early but we still have two games to go. We won't be taking it easy. Every time we step on the court, we want to win."

These two games could determine who the Blue Jays see in the first round.

"It doesn't really matter to us who we play," senior Britini Lonesome said. "We're going to go out and play our game and let the rest take care of itself."

We're excited about getting in early but we still have two games to go. We won't be taking it easy every time we stop on the court, we want to win.

—STEPHANIE FONG

Lacrosse, baseball teams ready to go

By JEFFREY ZHU
Sports Editor

After the snow from the Blizzards of 2010 slowly thaws, and with March fast approaching, another staple of the school year is creeping up as well: spring sports season. Here are some updates from the men's and women's lacrosse teams, as well as from the men's baseball team.

The Hopkins men's lacrosse team, the vanguard of Homewood sports, looks to return to the national championships for the 2010 season. Last season, the team sported a 10-5 overall record; the season seemed to be lost at a point, when the Blue Jays upheld a 3-4 record, after falling to the Tar Heels in a 10-9 loss.

A fire was lit under the team and they responded, winning six straight games, to achieve a 9-4 record entering playoff competition. The Blue Jays faced a tough team in the first round of playoffs against Brown, eventually winning in overtime, 12-11. Unfortunately, the team could not get by the quarterfinals, losing to Virginia 19-8, effectively ending the season.

The upcoming 2010 season is one with high hopes for Hopkins. Two national Division I Polls, the 2010 USILA Preseason Coaches Poll and the 2010 Nike/Inside Lacrosse Preseason Poll rank Hopkins at 5th, up from the 8th (coaches poll) and 7th (media poll) rankings from last season.

One of the main reasons why the 2010 Hopkins men's lacrosse team is expected to go far is due to the influx of new players. The freshmen entering the squad are the top-ranked recruiting class in the nation. While nothing has been written in stone just yet, the team appears to be plugging three freshmen into starting roles, John Greeley, Zach Palmer and Tucker Durkin.

Seven starters, including goalkeeper Mike Gvozden, attackers Steven Boyle, Chris Boland and Kyle Wharton, midfielder Michael Kimmel, and defenders Matt Drenan and Sam DeVore, will be expected to return to their starting roles. With a solid core group of starters, complemented by the new class of players and supporting cast, the men's lacrosse team expects to go far in 2010.

Like the men's team, the Hopkins women's lacrosse team expects the 2010 season to be an improvement over 2009. The Lady Jays sported a 5-12 overall record last year, with their season ending in the ALC Tournament at Vanderbilt, 14-8.

The women's lacrosse team will feature the same starting lineup as last year's team. Attacker Candace Rossi and midfielder Colleen McCafferty were bright spots in an otherwise down year. Rossi lead the team in goals (29), points (33) and draw controls (34). McCafferty was second on the team in the respective statistics, with 28 goals, 32 points and 31 draw controls. Now sophomores, Rossi and McCafferty seem to once

again be the main attack force for the team. Seniors Brett Barthas, Angela Hughes and Paige Ibellio, and juniors Sam Schrum and Brianna Cronin will look to provide another solid season for the Lady Jays. The team, though still very young, is much more experienced this season. They could be one of the surprises this season in Hopkins sports.

Hopkins' baseball team earned some recognition coming into the 2010 season. Previously unranked beginning the 2009 season, the Blue Jays were ranked 30th on the ABCA/Colligate Baseball Division III 2010 Preseason Poll. The team had a respectable 28-16 record last year, winning the Centennial Conference title for the third consecutive season. Hopkins also did fairly well in the NCAA South Regionals, reaching the championship game, ultimately losing to Shenandoah 11-7.

The Blue Jays have some big shoes to fill on the roster. A new starting rotation will have to be crafted from players from the roster and newcomers, as many of the pitchers who started games last year, including Dave Fioretti, Chez Angeloni, Marco Simmons and Dan Schiffner have graduated. On a side note, Angeloni is still playing baseball, pitching well for rookie and

A- ball Red Sox minor league affiliates last year. He looks to continue rising as a prospect in the Red Sox organization. Matt Wiegand suffered an injury and is out for the season.

There are also some holes in the lineup, as some key position players have graduated as well. Todd Emr, Dan Merzel and Ryan Biner are three starters who are no longer with the Hopkins' baseball team. This leaves shortstop Lee Bolyard as the only starting infielder from last year's team. Brian Youchak, an on-base machine last season, returns to play for the Blue Jays as a graduate student. The team will look for steady contributions from Bolyard, Youchak, Jesse Sikorski, John Swarr, Dave Kahn, James Teta and Chris Huisman, among others.

"Our team's offense was the best in the nation last season, and this year it will be even better," Bolyard said. "We return a core group of hitters from last year's homerun record setting team, and we are looking forward to shattering that mark again this year."

"In 2008 we were just one strike away from winning a national title," Bolyard said.

"Last season we were only a few outs away from getting back to the World Series. I feel that this is the year that we finally breakthrough and achieve the goal that we have been chasing for the past three years. This team has the talent and chemistry needed to go all the way. To all the teams in our path, get off the tracks, we are a runaway train that cannot be stopped."

How will lacrosse and baseball fare this year? With high expectations and exceptional talent, the players are ready to get going.

Spring Sports Preview

The curious case of Danica Patrick

FROM DANICA, PAGE B12
the more wide-open rear. It took her another 40 laps and a dodged fender bender to catch up to the leader's lap. She was back in the two-wide group, keeping the car steady in the middle of the track with plenty of room to maneuver, just waiting out the final sixty laps of her virgin NASCAR race.

Then adversity struck, a spinning wreck not too far ahead threw up a cloud of burning rubber smoke and Patrick had to make her first split-second decision. She chose to gamble and stay in the middle — wrong decision. She careened into the wall and spun out into the infield. Millions of people knew immediately that her race was over.

Soon after the race, Patrick admitted that there is still much for her to learn and she'll need a few more races to become comfortably acquainted with the competitive Nationwide racers. Until that happens and she proves her ability to win, why do we care that she came in 34th?

The answer is simple: Danica Patrick is sexy.

If you don't believe me, check out her spread in this week's *Sports Illustrated* Swimsuit edition, or the conservative, yet still steaming hot, *godaddy.com* Super Bowl Ads, or take a look at the modeling pictures on her official website.

For many reasons, it's a shame that VH1 doesn't still air that show *Best Week Ever*, but Patrick should be especially pissed considering her performance on and off the track last week. Instead she's going on the *Ellen DeGeneres Show* on Wednesday.

On the other hand, Danica Patrick is a cow. A cash cow, that is. NASCAR has the largest viewership in the world and the majority of them are men. The only thing those men love more than fast cars are women. Patrick is exploiting her sex appeal to the world and laughing all the way to the bank.

Her most recent sponsor is Hot Wheels — they developed the "DaniCar." Other sponsors include *godaddy.com*, Tissot Watches

and Marquis Jets. On the track she averages about a million a year. Off the track, according to Forbes, she markets herself for about \$7 million and could triple that with a NASCAR contract.

But finally, the real reason Danica Patrick gets so much attention is because she has guts. The gal dropped out of high school to race go-karts in England. Entered one of the must cutthroat, dangerous sports in the world, IndyCar racing, and is surviving and thriving. Now she's fighting for her place within the testosterone stronghold of NASCAR, albeit tentatively, with plans to compete with the best of them.

All the while she is no doubt coping with and elegantly overcoming the sexist and ageist attitudes of her competitors. So cheers to you, Danica Patrick. You're not dominating the game just yet but you're throwing some formidable punches. Just don't pull a Kournikova and fall by the wayside in the blink of an eye.

VANCOUVER 2010 MEDAL COUNT

| COUNTRY | GOLD | SILVER | BRONZE | TOTAL |
|------------------------|------|--------|--------|-------|
| 1. United States | 3 | 3 | 4 | 10 |
| 2. Germany | 3 | 4 | 2 | 9 |
| 3. France | 2 | 1 | 4 | 7 |
| 4. Canada | 2 | 2 | 1 | 5 |
| 5. Norway | 1 | 2 | 2 | 5 |
| 6. Korea | 3 | 1 | 0 | 4 |
| 7. Switzerland | 3 | 0 | 1 | 4 |
| 8. Austria | 0 | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 9. China | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| 10. Russian Federation | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 |

SPORTS

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK
LYNDSAY BURTON — WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

All-around player Burton helps team succeed

By **TRISTAN MOHABIR**
Staff Writer

We knew Lyndsay Burton was poised for a stellar season. Two years ago, as a freshman, the junior forward from New Jersey finished second on the team, by scoring 9.5 points a game, and third in rebounding, hauling in 5.4 boards each contest. She also led the team in scoring eight different times in her debut season.

Last year, Burton dramatically improved her game. As a sophomore, Burton was a First Team All-Centennial Conference selection, starting 21 of 27 games.

She lead the team in scoring (15.4 points per game) and field goal percentage (.549 percent from the field), and was second in rebounding with 8.1 rebounds a game.

She has scored at least 20 points seven times, and has stepped up when it really mattered, averaging 16.8 points per game over the season's final 18 games, compared to 11.7 points per game through the first nine.

Her five game streak of scoring at least twenty points was the longest in Hopkins women's basketball since the 2001-2002



FILE PHOTO

Burton attempts a shot. She leads the basketball team in scoring and shot percentage.

season, when Kathy Darling did it six straight times.

Included in Burton's streak was a 26-point, nine-rebound performance at 23rd-ranked Muhlenberg, which provided a glimpse of her vast potential and a bright future ahead of her.

Given her stellar past, it should come as no surprise that Burton's success has continued this season, as she is again the Jays' leading scorer with 13.1 points per game.

Burton is also the team's leading rebounder, grabbing 8.3 a game, and she is second on the team in steals, behind sopho-

more guard Chantel Mattioli, with 38.

Burton is again shooting above 50 percent from the field, hitting on .517 percent of her shots, and leads the team in minutes per game by a margin of seven, playing for about 31 minutes during every contest.

In the 22 games that the Jays have played this year, Burton was the leading scorer in 13 of those games and the leading rebounder in nine, and has lead the team in both scoring and rebounding seven times.

On Friday, in the Jay's first game since the winter snowstorms, Hopkins defeated the

McDaniel Green Terror 65-60, halting the latter's winning streak at 17 games.

Burton led the Jays with 17 points and 14 rebounds, recording her sixth double-double of the season.

Thanks to her consistent performance, Burton already finds herself in the Hopkins record books at 14th in career points with 923, 11th in career rebounds with 532, 13th in field goals made with 393, and 15th in career steals with 123.

With a game left in this year's regular season and the post-season still left to play, not to mention an entire season next year (barring an early entry into the WNBA draft, that is), Burton has plenty of time to improve on those already remarkable career totals.

She may very well find herself in the top five in numerous categories when it's all said and done.

Thanks in part to Burton's play, the Jays are one win away from matching last season's total of 14 wins; they reached the conference finals that season, but fell to Muhlenberg.

In recent action, Hopkins bounced back from a 58-54 defeat against Haverford with a convincing 64-54 victory over the Swarthmore Garnet in a game that saw the Jays take a 40-18 lead into the locker room at halftime.

Burton finished the game with eight points and nine rebounds.

Hopkins has already clinched a playoff spot this season and has two remaining regular season games; on Wednesday night, the Jays will travel to Franklin & Marshall.

On Saturday, Burton will help her team wrap up the regular season at home versus Washington College.



FILE PHOTO

The men's lacrosse team looks to get into finals competition after a rebuilding season.

Catching up with
Coach David Pietramala

By **SHANT KESKINYAN**
Staff Writer

The Hopkins Men's Lacrosse team ended its preseason with a win in its scrimmage at top-ten ranked Cornell this past weekend. *The News-Letter* was able to talk to Coach David Pietramala to recap this past weekend's scrimmage, and to gain insight on the team and season ahead.

News-Letter (N-L): How do you think the team played overall?

David Pietramala (DP): I thought our effort against Cornell in the scrimmage was good. We played hard and we were excited. However, we played sloppy. Part of it was due to conditions and part of it was due to the fact that we were not as focused as we needed to be, at both ends of the field.

N-L: What were the things that the team did particularly well?

DP: We have always struggled playing Cornell on their home turf, so getting a win was great. We also played physically. We wanted to do this as a team and we did. Thirdly, we faced off better. However, we still have been inconsistent on face-offs and we need to work on that.

N-L: Seeing the team's play this weekend, and throughout the preseason, what are the things that the team needs to work on in preparation for the season opener?

DP: I will answer this question from a position basis. At attack, we have experience and depth. I am very confident in the team, but also very confident in our attack. We have great players who have played in big games. At the midfield, we have to gain experience and continue to grow as a unit. This is critical. The midfield defense also needs to improve. At goal, we have been consistent.

N-L: I know you have a couple of great players at the goalie position. Do you think you will be using a rotation, or will you name one, more specifically, Mike Gvozden, as the starter?

DP: We aren't really big in rotating goalies. It confuses the defense and messes with the chemistry of the team. We haven't named a starter yet, but I believe that Mike has earned the right to the starting job as a senior.

N-L: Based on the scrimmage and last year's preseason, how well do you think this forecasts the season ahead?

DP: Every season has a life of its own. I couldn't compare this preseason with last year's or any other year's for that matter. We are just such a different team. We are very youthful at midfield and we have great experience on both attack and defense. There is a different feel to this team, one that I haven't felt in a long time.

However, scrimmages and preseason games are just that — scrimmages. We need to wait until the first game to see how this team is going to truly show up. Scrimmages are good to show us what we're doing right and what we need to work on, but there is nothing like a real game.

N-L: This incoming freshman class has gotten much hype from lacrosse media nationwide. How do you think they are looking?

DP: First off, they are a nice group of young men that take great pride in representing Johns Hopkins lacrosse. Secondly, I don't care about rankings. All these guys have tons of accolades in high school, but that doesn't translate to college. None of them have put on a real game jersey yet and how they play on the college level is a whole new game. We are a team. Everyone has talents and skills, but we are a team first.

This freshman class is unbelievably talented and quite a few of them will have opportunities to contribute early-on. However, they all have a lot of growing and a lot of developing to do. We have to see them under pressure and they won't get that until they step onto Homewood field. Nonetheless, these guys are great men and a very talented group of lacrosse players. I'm excited.

Wrestling goes two for four as they head to championships

By **BRETT SCHWARTZ**
Staff Writer

After a lengthy layoff, the Hopkins' wrestling team split its matches this past weekend. The team suffered two lopsided losses on Saturday against top-ranked opponents, while rebounding Sunday to take home two wins.

The team concluded its season with an overall record of 6-9 and a 3-4 record in the Centennial Conference.

The wrestling team competed first at Gettysburg College on Saturday after a long break due to snow. Hopkins faced off against the 13th-ranked Merchant Marine Academy Mariners in its first match of the Valentine's Day weekend.

The team suffered a very tough loss of 43-6, scoring its only points in a forfeit in the 133-pound weight class. Sophomore Adam Stevens was the lone scorer of the first match. The Mariners scored three pins and picked up two forfeits in the match.

The second match of the day for Hopkins featured the Stevens Ducks. The Jays began the match by notching a 9-0 win in the 125-pound class by Stevens, the only scorer from the first match.

The Ducks would go on to win the next seven bouts, but freshman Reid Mosquera won in the 197-pound class over Ernie Guaimano, in a 5-2 score. The Ducks would eventually win one more class en route to a 37-7 win over the Jays.

"We lost two matches on Saturday to teams that were clearly better than us, however, we know that our team is young and we have enough talent to beat teams like that in the future," said junior captain Eric Levenseller.

"We know that next year, Stevens and USMMA are the teams to beat, and I think we'll get there."

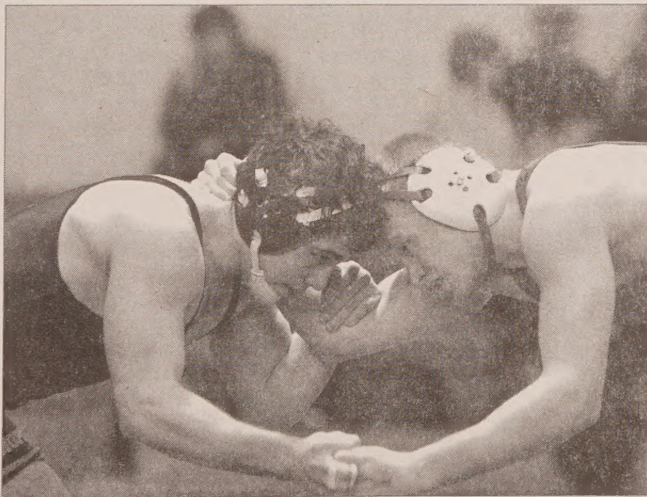
Levenseller believed that the team will battle back next season and hopes to stay healthy.

"It is hard battling injuries throughout the season, but people continued to step up and we had an overall good season. I

think the best part of the season is yet to come."

Junior captain Rocky Barilla echoed Levenseller's belief that injuries were hard to overcome. "This year has been very

"Saturday was a really hard day for us as a team. We were wrestling the two best teams in our conference and definitely didn't come out with enough energy," he said.



FILE PHOTO

Wrestler Rocky Barilla locks up against an opponent. The team went 2-2 this week.

hard due to injuries. As a captain, you must keep the team together on and off the mat. Although I didn't compete this weekend, I was proud that my team won both matches on Sunday. There was a very strong showing that day."

Sunday's matched featured two wins over Centennial Conference rival Washington and Lee and East Tennessee State. Hopkins defeated the Washington and Lee Generals 27-18 on Sunday, with huge decisions by Eric Levenseller, Andrew Giannascoli and Reid Mosquera. Levenseller started a four-bout winning streak with his 9-1 win over Keith Jaworski.

The second match of the day featured a 42-0 shutout of the East Tennessee Buccaneers. Matt Nelson defeated Jacob Henley 3-2 after two forfeits in the first two bouts. After two more Buccaneer forfeits, Levenseller defeated Austin Collins in the 165-pound class 16-0. Dylan Meade and Mosquera rounded out the Hopkins' winning decisions that were not won by forfeit. Mosquera is proud of the results on Sunday, but understands the season is not over yet.

"It was great to see the team respond on Sunday with two decisive wins, especially when we had to travel so far, but we all still know the work that's still ahead of us."

Several wrestlers expressed concerns that one problem with Saturday's performance might have been due to weigh-ins. Junior captain Barilla believed that competing in two consecutive tournaments in two days may have taken a toll on the team mentally.

"I feel that the two consecutive weigh-ins on Saturday and Sunday were a detriment to our performance," Barilla said.

"Many wrestlers had to worry about making weight on Sunday and weren't able to fuel and hydrate their bodies for Saturday's matches. This may have been a cause for our lack of energy. Sunday was a more aggressive day for us as we went 2-0 as a team," he said.

"I am proud of my team and hopefully we can take this momentum into the Conference Championships."

Head coach Keith Norris believes this team experienced a rollercoaster-type season, but is

eager for the future.

"This year our team has had a lot of ups and downs," he said. "This weekend exemplifies that. This team does not look back. We are always moving forward and we are excited about our future."

Coach Norris's team will compete at the Centennial Conference Championships at Stevens in Hoboken, NJ this Saturday.

"Every wrestler's goal at this point is to win the conference and become an NCAA qualifier," Norris said. "The conference tournament is a new starting point. It does not matter what you have done in the past."

"Everyone is starting off with a clean slate," he said. "We have been preparing all year for these three matches. I am confident that the team will be ready to reach their goals on Saturday."

JHU runners
break
records

FROM *TRACK*, PAGE B12

a strong finish with his time of 51.41. Following the 400 meter dash was the 800 meter run, where Wehner had his record-breaking run, posting a time of 1:55.98. Hahn was the top finisher for the Jays in the mile, finishing in 4:27.60, his season's best. Sigmon was Hopkins' top finisher in the 3,000 meter run, finishing in 8:58.65.

In the 4x400 meter relay, the team of Martin, Walker, Tait, and Mack broke the Hopkins record, finishing in 3:23.22, the fastest 4x400 meter time posted in the Centennial Conference this year. Sophomore Jacob Kramer finished 27th in the 55 meter hurdles with his time of 8.24 seconds. Junior Steve Tobochnik posted a time of 15:17.69 in the 5,000 meter run.

The team returns to action on Feb. 19, heading up to Haverford for the Keough Invitational.

Men's basketball claims
victory in several games

FROM *M. BALL*, PAGE B12

Sean O'Connor brought the game back into Hopkins' favor after sinking a 20-footer. Soon followed by points from Farber-Miller and O'Connell, the Jays jumped out to a seven-point lead. The Garnett bounced back quickly and brought the game back within one point with just seconds left in the half.

After nailing back-to-back threes, Farber-Miller gave Hopkins a four-point lead with six minutes remaining on the clock in the second. Swarthmore's Jordan Martinez and Will Gates refused to go down easy. Both combined to give the Garnett a six-point lead. Hopkins responded with an 11-2 run capped by a three pointer from Farber-Miller giving Hopkins the lead 46-43.

After trailing by four, Swarthmore showed resilience by closing the game on an 11-3 run. After defeating Hopkins 55-51, Swarthmore snapped an 11-game losing skid to Hopkins. On a positive note, Andrew Farber-Miller scored a season high of 23.



FILE PHOTO

A Hopkins player drives through defenders.

Hopkins returned to action Wednesday, Feb. 17, in an away bout at 15th-ranked Franklin & Marshall. With tip off at 8 p.m., the Jays will need to win this game if they hope to make a push to the playoffs.

SPORTS

THIS DAY IN SPORTS

1978 - The first Iron Man Triathlon (swim, bike ride, marathon) is held in Kona, Hawaii.

1986 - San Antonio's Alvin Robertson scores the 2nd quadruple double in NBA history, with 20 points, 11 rebounds, 10 assists and 10 steals.

CALENDAR

FRIDAY

M. Lacrosse vs. Manhattan 5 p.m.

SATURDAY

W. Basketball vs. Washington Md. 1p.m.
M. Basketball vs. Washington Md. 3p.m.

W. Basketball wins crucial game, makes playoffs



FILE PHOTO

The Lady Jays had the playoffs in sight this past weekend, as they played three games against Centennial Conference rivals. If Hopkins won two games, a playoff berth would belong to the Lady Jays. After defeating McDaniel and losing to Haverford, the playoffs rode on the game against Swarthmore. In the end, the offense scored, the defense shored up and the team was in the playoffs. See Page B10.

Track breaks records at Valentine's Invit.

By MIKE PORAMBO
Staff Writer

Traveling up to Boston University to compete in the 2010 BU Valentine Invitational, the men and women of the Hopkins Track and Field team performed impressively, with both teams breaking school and conference records.

Top performers included junior Elliot Wehner (*The News-Letter's* marketing manager), who broke his own school record in the 800 meter run, and senior Laura Paulsen, who broke the Johns Hopkins and Centennial Conference records in the one-mile run with a time of 4:53.90.

Led by Paulsen, the women's team raced well against some elite competition. In the 200 Meter Dash, senior Paula Osborn was the team's top finisher with a time of 26.58, followed by Leah Sibener, Amelia Vallenilla, Tara Berglund, Stephanie Chung and Anita Mikkilineni. Osborn again was the Blue Jays' top finisher in the 400 meter dash, finishing in 1:00.58. Sibener had the next best time with 1:01.89, followed by Vallenilla and Chung. Marie

Ferguson was the only Blue Jay to compete in the 800 meter run, finishing in 2:24.63.

The next event saw Paulsen breaking the school and conference record in the 1 mile, finishing 9th overall, the race's top Division III competitor. Mary O'Grady was the team's next-finisher, taking 35th with a time of 5:11.90. In the 4x400m relay, the team of Vallenilla, Chung, Sibener and Osborn broke the school and Centennial Conference records with a time of 4:03.97, finishing 20th overall.

The men fared well themselves. In the Distance Medley, the team of Brandon Hahn, Rob Martin, Wehner and David Simon finished with a time of 10:39.04. The team fared very well in the 200 meter dash, with Martin finishing in 23.01, senior Jonathan Walker in 23.11, senior James Walker in 23.23 and senior Pierre Hage finishing in 23.34.

The Blue Jays had similar success in the 400 meter dash. Junior Gordon Mack won head #20 with his time of 51.11. Also winning their heats were Martin with a time of 50.62 and Hage in 50.76. Senior Chris Tait also had

SEE TRACK, PAGE B11

Danica Patrick accomplishes little yet makes headlines

By CHIP HARSH
Staff Writer

On Saturday Danica Patrick raced her first NASCAR stock car event in Daytona, FL. She began the race in the fifteenth position and didn't finish the 120 laps. A twelve car wreck, which Patrick couldn't swerve out of, ended her racing before the 69th lap.

So why am I writing an article about the 34th place racer?

You could very wrongly assume that Patrick is the first woman to break into the male-dominated sport that is NASCAR. Sara Christian did that in 1949.

Or maybe, she's the first young female prodigy to enter the stock car circuit? But don't you remember 24 year old Sarah Fisher in 2005? She had four top-ten NASCAR finishes.

Or, because Patrick is such a successful Indy Car racer, the transition could be as flawless as Tony Stewart's. Right! (maybe) Patrick won only one Indy Car race and her best finish in open-wheel racing's Super Bowl, the

Indy 500, is third place. Stewart's is fifth . . . he's haunted by that track. Maybe, like Stewart, Patrick's niche is stock cars.

Tony Stewart has won the Sprint Cup twice. On Daytona's Valentine's Eve race, Stewart won the Nationwide Cup race. Which is kind of like a seasoned Cy Young pitcher beating the Bowie Baysox.

Patrick has a lot of work to do to even sniff the accomplishments of Tony Stewart in the NASCAR circuit. During time trials, days before the race, Patrick posted a top five time, proving her talent. Due to that respectable time and previous points garnered by her team, Patrick began Saturday's race in the middle of the pack.

The goal was for Danica to find her comfort level. All of her pitstops would replace all four wheels and at the sign of any trouble with the especially powerful car, Patrick planned to fall back and find a steady, comfortable pace. She did just that.

Before the twentieth lap, she dropped back behind the pack to

SEE DANICA, PAGE B10



COURTESY OF WWW.MELROSEJEWELERS.COM

Danica Patrick did not do so hot on her NASCAR debut race, as she did not finish.

M. basketball remains hot despite the snow, wins 2 out of 3

By RYAN KAHN
Staff Writer

Despite being snowed out for over a week, the Blue Jays came out hot with respective victories over McDaniel and Haverford.

On Friday, Feb. 12, the Hopkins Mens Basketball team completed their season sweep over McDaniel in Westminster, Md.

For a second straight game, Senior Pat O'Connell came up big scoring 20 from the floor. This was his second time this season and the fifth time he reached this feat in his career.

With playoff hopes on the line, the Blue Jays wasted no time while getting off to an early lead of 13-4. What's even more impressive is that all 13 points were from seniors Andrew Farber-Miller and Pat O'Connell combined efforts.

But the Green Terror didn't let up shortly going on a 10-0 run and attaining the lead 14-13. Junior Matt Henrici was quick to answer however, draining a bucket that ignited an 8-0 Blue Jay run. Hopkins then held onto the lead throughout the half until McDaniel's Karl Nelson hit a 3-pointer sending the game into halftime tied.

Starting the second half, the game's lead changed more than Hopkins' blizzard policies. However, McDaniel would see their last lead of the game once the 11 minute mark came.

With Matt Henrici stepping up in the clutch and scoring nine of Hopkins' next ten points, giving the Blue Jays a 52-45 lead. The Green Terror started to claw back with a three pointer from Nelson but the Blue Jays was quick to answer at every chance, sustaining their lead at 10.

After Farber-Miller's fourth double-double of the season, Hopkins closed out the game 65-56. Besides the win, Hopkins showed a lot of promise for the upcoming race for the playoffs. With impeccable defense, the highest scoring McDaniel player

only reached a measly 10 points. On the other side of the ball, Hopkins finished with 57.1 percent from the floor while finishing with more than 50 for the third game in a row.

However, Hopkins dominance on the court didn't stop at McDaniel — the team beat another conference opponent, Haverford, less than a day later. Ending the game with a 14-2 rally, the Blue Jays routed Haverford in the Wall-O'Mahoney Memorial Game, which is a game played annually in honor of Hopkins Alumni Glen Wall and Matt O'Mahoney, who lost their lives in the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001.

Haverford started with relentless offense, barely giving Hopkins defense a break. Hitting their first seven of 11, the Fords jumped to a lead of 15-10. After a jumper from Mike Rhoads, the Blue Jays turned it up on offense, capping a 9-point run. With contributions from O'Connell and Henrici, Hopkins took a 23-20 lead into the half.

After consecutive threes from Rhoads and Tim McCarthy, it seemed as if the Blue Jays defense



FILE PHOTO

Hopkins' sophomore Tim McCarty shoots a three unguarded. The team won two out of three games.

let loose giving the Fords a 13-3 run. But not for long as Farber-Miller sank a bucket that gave Hopkins back the lead.

After a lead change of a whopping six times during the next five minutes, the Fords pulled it together going up 43-40. After lockdown defense soon after the Blue Jays proceeded to score 14 more (4 from free throws) to lock down the victory 54-45. Pat O'Connell received Wall-O'Mahoney MVP awards and Head Coach Bill Nelson attained his 496th career victory, just four short of 500.

After two huge victories over Centennial Conference opponents, the Blue Jays just couldn't keep the momentum rolling as they headed into Swarthmore. Hopkins waited for the Garnett to score five points before coming up with an answer. Farber-Miller

hit back-to-back treys giving Hopkins a jump start and shortly lead to a 13-9 lead.

But as the trend continued, the Garnett were quick to respond getting on a run of their own and a 16-15 lead. Sophomore sharp-shooter

SEE M. BBALL, PAGE B11

| | |
|----------|----|
| Final | |
| McDaniel | 56 |
| Hopkins | 65 |

| | |
|-----------|----|
| Final | |
| Haverford | 45 |
| Hopkins | 54 |

BLUE JAY ATHLETICS SCOREBOARD

M. BASKETBALL

Friday, February 12:

| | |
|----------|----|
| McDaniel | 56 |
| Hopkins | 65 |

Saturday, February 13:

| | |
|-----------|----|
| Haverford | 45 |
| Hopkins | 54 |

Monday, February 15:

| | |
|------------|----|
| Swarthmore | 55 |
| Hopkins | 51 |

WRESTLING

Saturday, February 13:

| | |
|---------------|----|
| Steven's Tech | 37 |
| Hopkins | 7 |

Sunday, February 14:

| | |
|------------------|----|
| Washington & Lee | 18 |
| Hopkins | 27 |

M. AND W. TRACK

VALENTINE'S INVITATIONAL
Friday, February 12:
Both teams set new school records this weekend in Boston

W. BASKETBALL

Friday, February 12:

| | |
|----------|----|
| McDaniel | 56 |
| Hopkins | 65 |

Saturday, February 13:

| | |
|-----------|----|
| Haverford | 45 |
| Hopkins | 54 |

Monday, February 15:

| | |
|------------|----|
| Swarthmore | 55 |
| Hopkins | 51 |

INSIDE

Wrestling: Ends with some wins

Inclement weather can not stop the Blue Jays from finishing their season out strong. See how the Wrestling team is preparing for the postseason.

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Coach Pietramala: 2010 Lacrosse

Coach P sits down for an interview with one of our writers to answer the questions everyone is asking for the upcoming season. See what he has to say about our Blue Jays.

Page B11

Athlete of the Week: Lyndsay Burton

Junior Lyndsay Burton has put her name in the record books. Find out more about her achievements on and off the court and how important she is to her team.

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